

*When will the
world end?*

THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET



FOUND!

The inspiring discovery
of **SOLOMON'S WALL**

Front cover: Eilat Mazar stands before a wall that was constructed during the reign of King Solomon. Here: Mazar (front center) joins her excavation crew, including two Herbert W. Armstrong College students (back left and back right) at the dig site.



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Remarkable archeological discoveries in Jerusalem are challenging critics of the Bible's account of 10th-century Israel.

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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

The U.S. Constitution Is Over 95 Percent Destroyed!

A fanatical statement? Our Founding Fathers prophesied it would happen if our “religion and private morality” grossly degenerated. That has happened. Still, almost nobody heeds the warning of the Founding Fathers. That lack of response reveals how little the Constitution means to us.

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE land. When the people no longer keep that law, a crisis will hurl us into violent anarchy and destructive chaos, so *prophesied* our Founding Fathers. Unless our Constitution is based on *biblical* religion and *biblical* morality, it will not work, so stated the Founding Fathers.

Time magazine recently wrote a cover article about how the U.S. Constitution was under siege, but not in a crisis. I totally disagree. The Constitution is on its deathbed. But almost nobody understands or knows why.

Will we allow the Founding Fathers to tell us why?

Christianity today has become an empty ritual. What does America’s Christianity do to stop us from flooding the world with family-destroying pornography? No other nation even comes close to what we produce!

What does that say about our religion and private morality? Anybody who understands the Bible knows how it condemns such sick, moral depravity!

New York was the sixth state to approve homosexual “marriage.” Marriage is a type of the firstfruits marrying Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7). That is the beginning of all mankind being led into the Family of God forever. That is also the *gospel*, the good news of the coming Family or Kingdom of God.

The Constitution is on its deathbed. But almost nobody understands or knows why. Will we allow the Founding Fathers to tell us why?

Those who promote homosexual “marriage” try to *redefine* what marriage and family are. IT IS AN ABOMINABLE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE HEART OF THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS FOR ALL MANKIND! (Request our free booklets *Why Marriage? Soon Obsolete?* and *The God Family Vision* for more information.)

The main cause of homosexuality is the breakdown of the family. Instead of changing broken families, we approve of homosexual “marriages” and add to our heinous sins.

Where are the Christian leaders today who will even label homosexuality a sin? The Bible is Jesus Christ in print. A true Christian is one who follows Christ. The Bible labels homosexuality an abomination.

Where are our leaders who will speak out against family breakdown, pornography, U.S. drug usage and the crime it causes? Our drug addiction has turned Mexico into a war zone.

The Constitution won’t work for such biblically immoral people! Who is willing to hear what our own Founding Fathers *prophesied*? All political parties are guilty of rejecting their warning.

The War Against the Constitution

The Greek Empire tried to establish the rule of law. It failed and the empire collapsed. The Roman Empire also tried to build a society based on law. It was unable to do so, and it too fell. Many other empires experienced the same failure.

The famous British historian Paul Johnson wrote an article titled “No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law.” It was printed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, Dec. 26, 1999. In it he wrote, “The rule of law, as distinct from the rule of a person, or class or people, and as opposed to the rule of force, is an abstract, sophisticated concept. IT IS MIGHTY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. But until it is achieved, and established in the public mind with such vehemence THAT MASSES OF INDIVIDUALS ARE PREPARED TO DIE TO UPHOLD IT, no other form of progress can be regarded as secure. The Greeks had tried to establish the rule of law but failed. The Romans had succeeded under their republic but Caesar and his successors had destroyed it. The essence of the rule of law is its impersonality, omnipotence and ubiquity. It is the same law for everyone, everywhere—kings, emperors, high priests, the state itself, are subject to it. If exceptions are made, the rule of law begins to collapse—that was the grand lesson of antiquity” (emphasis added throughout).

Yes, “that was the grand lesson” of history. But have we learned that lesson? Failure to do so means we pay the supreme sacrifice: loss of our republic.

The continual problem of man has been his failure to learn from history.

Are “masses of individuals ... prepared to die” to uphold America’s rule of law? Mr. Johnson states that this is *our only security!*

Do you feel secure?

Our Forefathers’ Goal

Early immigrants who came to this land were often persecuted in the countries they left. They usually lacked religious freedom.

“[B]oth in Virginia and in New England to the north, the colonists were determined, God-fearing men,” Mr. Johnson wrote, “often in search of a religious toleration denied them at home, who brought their families and were anxious to farm and establish permanent settlements. They put political and religious freedom before riches Thus took shape the economic dynamo that eventually became the United States—an *experiment designed to establish the rule of God on Earth ...*” (ibid).

What a goal. They planned to establish the rule of God on Earth! That means they had the goal of each person keeping the Ten Commandments of God—the basis of all righteous law.

How many Americans are willing to face that reality? Not many. Because then we would have to admit that we often fight not to establish law, but to promote *lawlessness!*

Consider some statements from the Founding Fathers. In his first inaugural, President George Washington said, “The foundations of our national policy will be laid in the *pure and immutable principles* of private morality.” And in his famous Farewell Address, he said, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, *religion and morality* are indispensable supports.” WITHOUT RELIGION AND MORALITY, WASHINGTON KNEW THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT WAS DOOMED TO FAIL. John Adams backed him up: “Statesmen may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is RELIGION AND MORALITY ALONE which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.” Religion and morality are firmly rooted in DIVINE LAW.

In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, “I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it.”

What political or religious leaders would make such statements as these men did? EVEN THE POLITICIANS WHO ESTABLISHED OUR REPUBLIC WERE MORE SPIRITUAL THAN MOST OF OUR RELIGIOUS LEADERS TODAY!

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC. And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution. Our forefathers believed that if we didn’t keep God’s Ten Commandments, OUR REPUBLIC WOULD COLLAPSE!

IT WAS MUCH HARDER FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TO SPILL STREAMS OF BLOOD WINNING OUR FREEDOM, AND TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THAN IT IS FOR US JUST TO MAINTAIN IT! So we ought to respect our Founding Fathers above ourselves. But we are too vain and arrogant to see how profoundly strong they were and how pathetically shallow and weak we are.

Noble Constitution

The Constitution was based to a great extent on God’s law. That is why I believe it is the noblest document ever written by a government of this world.

What a rare document it is. Our forefathers had the awesome opportunity to establish the rule of God in the wealthiest country ever. So they established a Constitution to protect all of us from the extremes of human reason. Tyrants, unjust judges and biased leaders were controlled by this law.

Did our Founding Fathers know that the Bible interprets itself? To some extent, I believe they did. And they probably patterned the Constitution after the Bible, in that sense. The Constitution is a document that interprets itself probably better than any book or document, other than the Bible.

We see indescribable confusion about the Bible today. Why? Because people won’t let it interpret itself!

We received some foundational direction from Britain’s Magna Carta. But Britain has no constitution.

Our persecuted forefathers wanted their protection spelled out in detail. They had suffered intensely at the hands of tyrants. Such tribulation deepens a people’s understanding about the value of freedom.



“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Will we have to experience indescribable tribulation before we can appreciate our FREEDOM, WHICH IS GIVEN TO US BY THE RULE OF LAW?

Seeking Lawlessness

When Robert Bork was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan, it created a firestorm in Congress, and he failed to get confirmed. Shortly thereafter, he wrote *The Tempting of America*, which I believe is the best book about constitutional law in a century—perhaps ever.

The founders of the Constitution put in place the walls, roof and beams of our Constitution, as Mr. Bork said. The judges’ purpose is to preserve the architectural features—adding only filigree or ornamental work. Instead, the lawyers and judges are changing the very structure of our representative democracy.

The Constitution is being altered dramatically. AND IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC! We are experiencing a constitutional earthquake, and most of our people don’t even know it—yet. Your future is being changed for you, and often you have no input.

This process is sure to lead to anarchy! That is why you and I should be deeply concerned.

Why did our Founding Fathers work so hard to establish the Constitution? Because it was to be the supreme law of the land.

“A well-known Harvard law professor,” Mr. Bork wrote, “turned to me with some exasperation and said, ‘Your notion that the Constitution is in some sense law must rest upon an obscure philosophic principle with which I am unfamiliar.’”

But notice what the Constitution itself states: “THIS CONSTITUTION, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

“THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, SHALL BE BOUND BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION, TO SUPPORT THIS CONSTITUTION; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”

A Harvard law professor is actually stating that the Constitution is not even law! That view comes from our most prestigious university. The very fact that he would even make that statement shows that we are already getting into EXTREME LAWLESSNESS!

The majority of our leaders now agree with the Harvard law professor. He made a statement that shows we are failing to establish the rule of law. The real issue here is *lawlessness*.

Cal Thomas wrote in the March 8, 2000, *Washington Times*, “In the final Democratic debate before the Super Tuesday election, Vice President Al Gore responded to a question about the type of Supreme Court justices he as president would select: ‘I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living and breathing document, that it was intended by our founders to be interpreted in the light of

the constantly EVOLVING EXPERIENCE of the American people.' ...

"Mr. Gore's view of the Constitution, shared by most political liberals, is ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHIES OF OUR TIME. It establishes a class of philosopher kings who determine the rights of the people and shreds the CONSTITUTION AS A DOCUMENT THAT CONFORMS PEOPLE TO UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES that promote their own and the general welfare.

"A 'living' Constitution, notes constitutional attorney John Whitehead, means the Constitution is 'up for grabs,' and it becomes whatever the justices decide, not the people through their elected representatives

"THE FOUNDERS NEVER INTENDED THE COURTS TO BE SUPREME. THEIR INTENTION WAS THAT THE LAW, ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH, WOULD BE PREEMINENT."

Law scholars today don't believe the Constitution was "ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH"—that is, they don't believe our founders established the rule of law. But that's just what the founders did. And now most lawyers and judges reject their foundational work.

Douglas Cox worked in the Office of Legal Counsel for Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Here is what he stated in the *Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 2, 1998: "THE ENTIRE JUSTICE SYSTEM is predicated on the theory that *witnesses will tell the truth*. PERMITTING A CULTURE OF LYING TO TAKE ROOT IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WOULD ULTIMATELY DESTROY THE SYSTEM."

He believes a lying culture would ultimately destroy our justice system! (Or has it already?)

Our views today reflect a deadly degeneration into lawlessness!

Why Religion and Morality

In 1776, the year Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his cousin, "It is *religion* and *morality* ALONE which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand." There it is again. Why did the Founding Fathers keep pointing back to these fundamental building blocks? Adams himself answered that question in 1798, while serving as president: "OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR A MORAL AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. IT IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OTHER."

There is the answer! They kept referring to religion and morality because, as Adams said, OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR MORAL AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE! Now the question is, WHY? Why was the Constitution written *only* for moral and religious people? Why was it inadequate to the government of any other?

Alexis de Tocqueville's 19th-century observations on the American republic answer this critical question. After touring America for two years in the early 1830s, he returned home to France and wrote his political classic, *Democracy*



"It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand."

JOHN ADAMS

in America. Like the Founding Fathers, Tocqueville acknowledged that religion and morality were indispensable to the maintenance of the American republic. Why indispensable? He said that while the constitutional law of liberty allowed Americans complete freedom to do as they pleased, *religion* PREVENTED them from DOING THAT WHICH WAS IMMORAL AND UNJUST. In short, Tocqueville surmised, liberty could not be governed apart from religious faith, lest there be anarchy.

WITHOUT THE MORAL RESTRICTIONS OF A HIGHER SPIRITUAL LAW, THE LIBERTY AFFORDED AMERICANS IN THE CONSTITUTION WOULD BE ABUSED. George Washington knew that! So did the rest of the Founding Fathers. That's why they kept harping on religion and morality. They did not want to see the United States of America self-destruct.

The success of our Constitution does not depend on which political party we belong to—it depends on how biblically spiritual we are!

America Today

Today, Americans have departed from the ideals of our forefathers. We reason that religion and morality are nice, but certainly not necessary for the overall wellbeing of the nation. We have been led to falsely assume that private morality and public duty are separate

issues. George Washington would have been appalled by such reasoning. And he was the *father* of our nation.

Times have certainly changed in the United States of America. Imagine a fornicator or adulterer being publicly ridiculed because of his sin. For that matter, imagine a public official even *calling* those acts *sinful*. Does it seem old-fashioned? It wasn't 200 years ago.

Let's look at what our first two presidents believed about the family. "In short, the founders' generation believed that men's and women's interests were complementary, and they saw marriage as the divinely ordained, naturally good way to organize life. George Washington had started his presidency by pointing out that public life must be grounded on private morality. His successor, John Adams, devoted husband of Abigail, was even more specific: the 'foundation of national morality must be laid in private families.' He went on to say that CHILDREN LEARN THE MEANING OF MORALITY, RELIGION, AND RESPECT FOR LAW FROM THE HABITUAL FIDELITY OF THEIR PARENTS TO ONE ANOTHER" (Angelo Codevilla, *The Character of Nations*).

This is the only way to remove the sin of homosexuality!

When Americans go from proclaiming that a free society can only exist when founded on private morality to thinking that character just doesn't matter, it is time to ask some hard questions about the future of this nation.

The American people's response is a frightening portent of our nation's future. If we fail to understand, that doesn't make the bad news go away.

Are you willing to heed the dire prophecy of your own Founding Fathers?



For further study on this subject, order free copies of our booklets **No Freedom Without Law** and **Character in Crisis**.

IN JUNE, HACKERS TOOK down cia.gov, compromised the main site of the United States Senate, and shut down an Atlanta-based website devoted to tracking cybercrime.

The same month, hackers released personal information—names, addresses, phone numbers, complete online details—for Arizona police officers, painting a target on men serving in one of the most dangerous parts of the country. By comparison, the tens of thousands of online passwords and bank accounts compromised this year might seem less important, but these could still have both societal and military implications.

Millions of computers have been compromised and are sometimes used by hackers without their owner's knowledge or permission to launch attacks. It was this sort of blunt attack that crippled Estonia in 2007—proof positive that an entire nation can be brought to its knees by even a crude cyberattack.

Then there is Stuxnet, perhaps the most frightening and effective digital weapon to date. Now, just months after it crippled Iran's nuclear program, this ultra-sophisticated computer worm is open source and available to any teenager in his basement as a play toy.

Add them all together, and you have a war—maybe several wars. But who are its fighters? How does cybercrime change the traditional nature of warfare? And how do you fire back when you don't know who are shooting or where they are located?

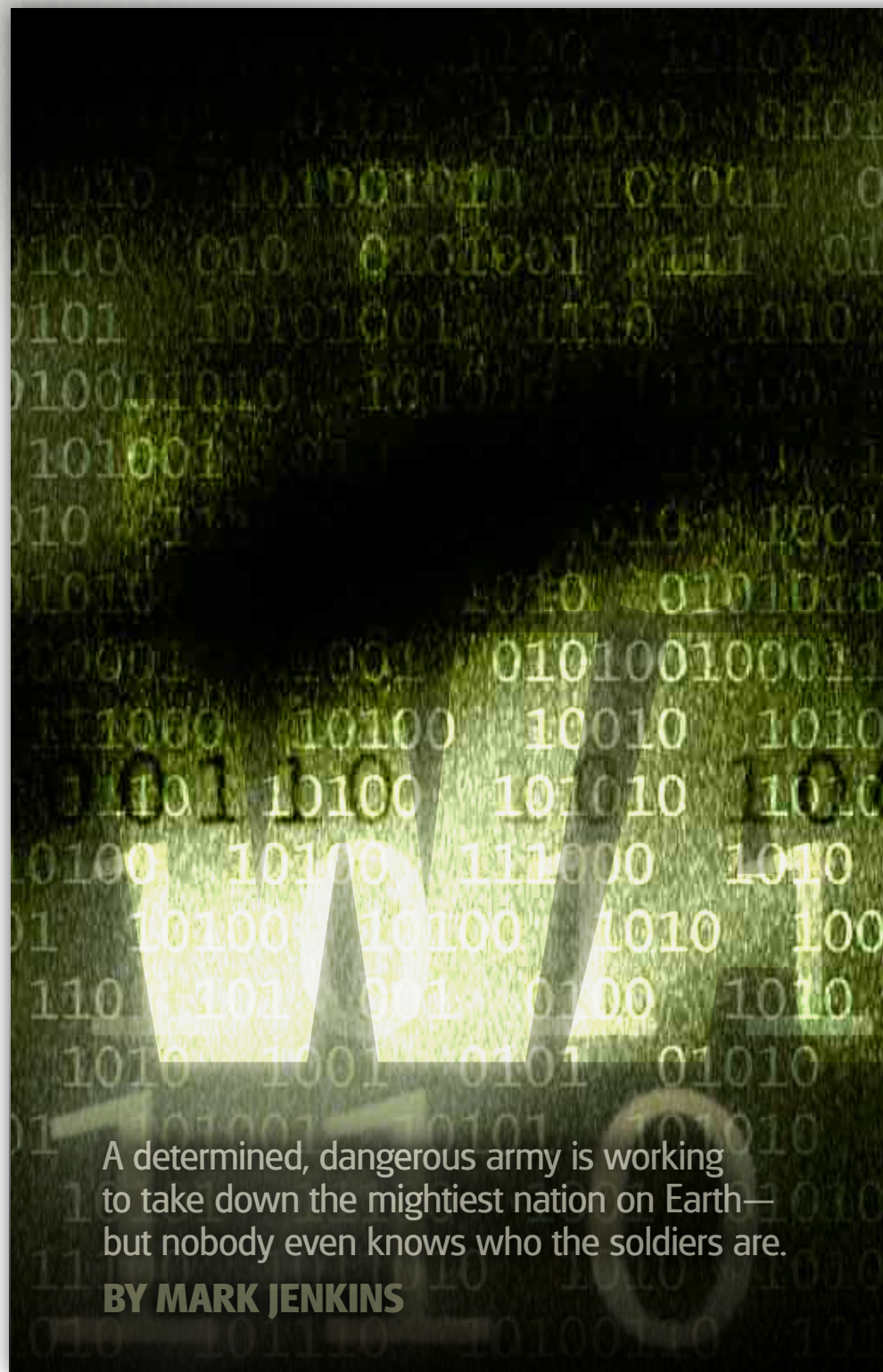
In 1992, Joseph de Courcy wrote in *Intelligence Digest*: "Computer dependence is the Western world's **ACHILLES HEEL**, and **WITHIN A FEW YEARS THIS WEAKNESS COULD BE TESTED TO THE FULL**" (March 20, 1992; emphasis added throughout).

We are now seeing the evidence of these tests almost every day.

The Great Equalizer

In previous years, the vast majority of cybercrime stories in the news were about blunt attacks: lots of compromised computers overwhelming a network with too much data. Though this requires little sophistication, its effectiveness as a military device is proven.

This was what crippled Estonia in 2007,



A determined, dangerous army is working to take down the mightiest nation on Earth—but nobody even knows who the soldiers are.

BY MARK JENKINS

in the first concerted attack on an entire nation's computer systems. At the height of Estonia's weakness, ambulance and fire services were down. The attack affected the websites of the presidency, the parliament, almost all of the government ministries, political parties, news organizations and banks. It is possible that more than a million computers were on the attacking side.

Though the details of the Estonia attack were somewhat unique, one aspect

of it returns in every form of cybercrime: *Its nature made it impossible to positively identify the attacker.* Was it the Russians? Probably—but how can a nation respond based on probabilities? And was it the Russian government, or rogue hackers in their basements? There's no way to know. New technologies coming online make it virtually impossible to trace attacks back to their point of origin.

The Pentagon recently formed a new



Hotz—known in the hacking community as “Geohot”—in January compromised the Playstation 3 (PS3), giving users complete access to the video game console. Just another video game device? No. The PS3 is a computer—a supercomputer, by some definitions. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Defense bought 2,200 PS3s to supplement its supercomputer cluster, which itself was implemented on 336 PS3s. Long story short, these are powerful machines. A couple of months later, Sony was briefly in danger of losing control of all its consoles.

In April, after penetration by hackers, Sony took down its entire PS3 network for more than a month, leaving its customers unable to play games or music online. Why? A primary reason had to be this: Sony didn’t want to be responsible for the largest botnet the world has ever seen. Hackers might have used Sony’s own update mechanism to take over millions of consoles—many times the computational power that took down Estonia.

Sony has sold over 50 million PS3s, and these machines are all over the world. “With an army of literally millions of zombie PS3s under their control, hackers would own a supercomputer at par or superior to those possessed by most nation-states, and they wouldn’t even have to foot the power bill” (*Register*, April 29).

It may seem to some that the losses corporations have suffered in the last year are simply a matter of poor security that needs to be corrected. Make no mistake: Security lapses do account for almost every successful hacking attempt, whether it’s Sony, Paypal, Apple, or the security specialists themselves. But no computer is totally secure. “The only secure computer,” wrote

former hacker Paul Day, “is one that is disconnected from the Internet, turned off and locked away in a cupboard.” At times, the hackers even hack each other.

On February 4, the CEO of HBGary Federal—a highly respected security firm—announced that he could identify the leaders of several founding members of Anonymous, a group well known for going after the Church of Scientology, as well as hacking MasterCard, Visa and

anyone else it deemed as an enemy of WikiLeaks (an organization that, itself, has made its name by profiting from gross examples of cybercrime).

By February 6, the CEO’s Twitter account was under some hacker’s control, and his mobile number and Social Security number had been published. By February 7, Anonymous had “exposed Social Security numbers, publicized private e-mails, deleted company files, replaced the phone system, and attacked the LinkedIn accounts of employees ...” (*PCMag.com*, February 7). The security company’s reputation was crushed. One report said that even the company backups were deleted. But again, *no one knows who carried out the attack.*

If angry hackers can humble Sony and security professionals, don’t think governments are immune. Since June, there has been a major cyberattack on the International Monetary Fund, a defacement of the CIA website that led to the publishing of its member database, and a penetration of Senate e-mail. These hacks all made the newswires. But we should hardly believe that governments and corporations feel a duty to report to the public anytime a breach occurs.

Stuxnet

The sophistication of the previous examples is like children in a muddy sandbox compared to the development of Stuxnet.

In June 2010, Stuxnet was found infecting computer systems around the world. It had an array of capabilities including the ability to shutdown oil pipelines, cause industrial equipment to overheat, and even turn up the pressure in nuclear power plants. Even though Stuxnet quietly

NEW TECHNOLOGIES COMING ONLINE MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE ATTACKS BACK TO THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN.

spread to thousands of industrial computer systems in almost every major country, it remained dormant until its code came into contact with a very specific target: the centrifuges at Iran’s nuclear enrichment facilities.

Once infecting Iranian computers, it began to systematically destroy not only software, but the industrial machines the software operated as well—all the while telling

policy: Cyberattacks can be met with traditional warfare: “If you shut down our power grid, maybe we will put a missile down one of your smokestacks,” one military official described a potential response.

But *whose* smokestack? Can you fire a missile at a group named Anonymous?

Humbling Sony

One of the highest-profile hacks in the last year was when 21-year-old George

“THEY HAVE BLOWN THE TRUMPET, EVEN TO MAKE ALL READY; BUT NONE GOETH TO THE BATTLE: FOR MY WRATH IS UPON ALL THE MULTITUDE THEREOF.” **EZEKIEL 7:14**

Iranian engineers that everything was operating as designed. The Institute for Science and Technology reported that Stuxnet ruined 1,000 Iranian centrifuges before the virus was impeded.

This was an example of what is called a “zero day attack”—an exploitation of flaws in a system no one knew existed and therefore had zero days to prepare for. “Our largest fear ... is the zero day attack,” said Sherrill Nicely, the CIA’s deputy chief information officer. “It’s very, very, very difficult to protect oneself from an attack that you did not know was coming or the vulnerability that you did not know existed.” Reports say Stuxnet used anywhere from 4 to 20 separate zero day attacks and had a legitimate security clearance.

Experts estimate Stuxnet set the Iranian nuclear program back two years. And it heralds an evolution in the way warfare is conducted around the world. It revolutionizes modern war.

“IT’S VERY, VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TO PROTECT ONESELF FROM AN ATTACK THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW WAS COMING OR THE VULNERABILITY THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW EXISTED.”

**SHERRILL NICELY,
CIA DEPUTY CHIEF
INFORMATION OFFICER**

Ralph Langner, a German cybersecurity researcher, called Stuxnet “a precision, military-grade cyber missile.” It was “a 100-percent-directed cyberattack aimed at destroying an industrial process in the physical world,” he said. “This is not about espionage, as some have said. This is a 100 percent sabotage attack.”

Stuxnet should be a giant warning shot across the bow of modern, technology-dependent America.

According to officials, Stuxnet required massive amounts

of man-hours and resources to create. It is thought to have had millions of dollars in support. Although no one has taken responsibility for it, it is clear that one sovereign government attacked another. It was an act of war—but because of the anonymity of the cyber-realm, like in the earlier cases, no one knows for sure who actually fired the shot. Was it America? Israel? Germany?

And though the resources needed to design Stuxnet were immense, now it is out there for anyone to tweak. Just months after its successful implementation, Stuxnet was decompiled and put on the Internet for any government, hacker or teenager with a laptop to download and manipulate. What will it be aimed at next—and who is most vulnerable?

The Achilles Heel

When the U.S. military created the ARPANET, predecessor to today’s Internet, the idea was to create communications that could not be disrupted, even if large portions of the network were destroyed by war or natural disaster. But now everyone uses the Internet, and the thing that made it so appealing—its broad-based structure—has become its greatest weakness. Disruption of the Internet can upset everyone’s way of life, our communication systems, our financial systems. And the military may be the most vulnerable of all.

In his June 1999 *Trumpet* personal, editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned about “America’s Achilles heel”—the vulnerability of our computer systems.

“One of the main reasons we won World War II was because the British broke German *radio code*. We knew about most of their war plans in advance! Quite a gigantic advantage. Some experts think we would have lost the war without that knowledge,” he wrote. “We could lose the next war before we even begin, if somebody breaks *our* military codes.”

Clearly the United States is at terrible risk because of its technological dependence. Military codes, the U.S. power grid, the systems that keep Hoover Dam and other dams from releasing a flood—even nuclear power plants—all rely on computer systems that are vulnerable to cyberattack.

These types of breaches have already occurred. In 2010, the U.S. military bought 59,000 microchips that turned out to be counterfeits from China. In 2008, the most significant breach of U.S. military computers ever occurred. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn explained it: “The flash drive’s malicious computer code, placed there by a foreign intelligence agency, uploaded itself onto a network run by the U.S. Central Command. That code spread undetected on both classified and unclassified systems, establishing what amounted to a digital beachhead, from which data could be transferred to servers under foreign control. It was a network administrator’s worst fear: a rogue program operating silently, poised to deliver operational plans into the hands of an unknown adversary” (*Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2010).

We now see frequent cyberattacks on government facilities. Pentagon computers are probed 250,000 times per hour for vulnerabilities, according to the head of the U.S. military’s Cyber Command.

Mr. Flurry also wrote in May 2005: “Exploiting this vulnerable point could trigger the greatest shock in the history of warfare! ... I believe one key *end-time Bible prophecy* could well be fulfilled through [cyberwarfare]: ‘They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; BUT NONE GOETH TO THE BATTLE: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof’ (Ezekiel 7:14). The trumpet of war is to be blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. (If you would like more information, request our free booklet on Ezekiel. All of our literature is free.) It seems everybody is expecting our people to go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs! Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! WILL IT BE BECAUSE OF COMPUTER TERRORISM?”

We have reached the stage where computers are used to fight against corporations, against police officers, against our military. We have witnessed a demonstrated capability to take out industrial facilities with weapons like Stuxnet. If we couldn’t clearly see the danger posed by our technological dependence 20 years ago, we should certainly see it today. It is all around us. ■

NATO Unraveling— What Does It Mean?

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

WAR IN LIBYA HAS EXPOSED A major problem: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization—the alliance that has defined security in the Western Hemisphere for around 60 years—no longer works.

NATO started off strong enough. After the Cold War, the military organization was dubbed “the most successful alliance in history” because it had prevented the Russian Army from crossing into Western Europe.

Post-Cold War realities, though, have raised existential questions about NATO. The last few years have revealed deep fissures in its integrity. And, most recently, its ongoing involvement in Libya has plainly shown that in some fundamental ways, it is a fictitious organization.

Outgoing U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on June 10 that NATO risks “collective military irrelevance” because most of its members put so little toward defense spending that the organization is not even able to defeat a tin-pot dictator like Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. The heart of NATO’s problem, according to Gates, is a *staggering imbalance* in the defense contributions of the member states.

“The mightiest military alliance in history is only 11 weeks into an operation against a poorly armed regime in a sparsely populated country—yet many allies are beginning to run short of munitions, requiring the U.S., once more, to make up the difference,” Gates said in his speech to the Security and Defense Agenda think tank in Brussels.

While all 28 NATO members voted in favor of the Libyan operation, less than a third of them have participated in the strike mission. Gates explained that it’s not necessarily because they don’t *want* to participate, “but simply because they can’t. The military capabilities simply aren’t there.”

Even some nations *that are contributing* to the campaign, like France and Britain, are quickly exhausting their munitions supplies.

Gates called today’s NATO a “two-tiered alliance,” with the U.S. footing 75 percent of its bills and the other 27 member nations paying the rest. NATO’s membership rules say a country must spend 2 percent of its GDP on defense in order to be part of the alliance, but only France, Greece, the UK and Albania reach this target.

The U.S., by contrast, spends a startling 4.7 percent of its GDP on defense. Gates called the disproportionate spending “unacceptable,” and cautioned Europe that the disparity is whittling away at Washington’s willingness to keep NATO afloat financially. Washington is fed up with shouldering the responsibility for Europe’s defense. It wants European nations to bolster their



The mightiest military alliance in history is only 11 weeks into an operation against a poorly armed regime in a sparsely populated country—yet many allies are beginning to run short of munitions.

defense capabilities so debt-ridden America can put those billions of dollars—which it doesn’t have anyway—somewhere else.

Europe has heard, and dismissed, such warnings before, but now things are different. EU nations are witnessing China’s rapid rise, intensifying volatility in the countries around the Mediterranean and Middle East, and the inevitability of a nuclear Iran. The multiplying threats may persuade EU states to take America’s warning more seriously.

The uncertain future of Washington’s financing has already prodded some European states to devote more resources and effort toward building a European military alliance—one that is not dependent on the U.S.

In May, Stratfor’s George Friedman wrote about “a new European military force” that consists of Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. He wrote the following: “On May 12, the

Visegrad Group announced the formation of a ‘battle group’ under the command of Poland. The battle group ... would *not be part of NATO command*. ... Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the primary focus of all of the Visegrad nations had been membership in the European Union and NATO. ... [T]hey believed that membership in NATO, with strong U.S. involvement, would protect their strategic interests. Of late, *their analysis has clearly been shifting*” (May 17; emphasis added throughout).

This shift stems from the Visegrad nations’ doubts about NATO’s ability to protect them. The Visegrad Group is becoming more focused on defense in response to those doubts. Its decision to form a battle group, Friedman said, illustrates how European nations perceive the “status of NATO, the U.S. attention span, European coherence and Russian power.” “It is not the battle group itself that is significant,” he wrote, “but the strategic decision of these powers to form a sub-alliance, if you will, and begin taking responsibility for their own national security ... [I]t is significant that they felt compelled to begin moving in this direction.” He called the creation of the new battle group “a punctuation mark in European history.” (Read more about this development in the story on page 8.)

The NATO alliance, a long-lasting pillar of Western security, is unraveling.

America’s complaints about bearing the bulk of Europe’s defense burden were once driven by annoyance. Today, though, they are driven by necessity and desperation. The U.S. no longer has the economic strength to project the power required to defend Europe, even if it desired to. European nations can plainly see that the U.S. is a bankrupt nation with a broken will.

If Eastern European countries have picked up on America’s fading capability and have taken drastic measures to compensate for it, surely Western European nations like Germany will soon do the same. Germany taking drastic measures to project European power independently will be bad news for all involved. ■



To understand where this is leading, and how it is connected to the most inspiring news in history, request a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

And Then There Were

10

As tensions within Europe give rise to regional blocs, an age-old prophecy springs to life! **BY RON FRASER**

READ VERSES 12, 13 AND 18 OF REVELATION chapter 17. This seemingly mysterious prophecy is speaking of a political power to rise in the end time: in Europe, 10 national groupings, under one overarching political leader, inspired by a single spiritual power.

Believe it or not, the euro crisis is stimulating the formation of this very scenario.

As Marko Papić of Stratfor observed, “It is important to understand that the crisis is not fundamentally about Greece or even about the indebtedness of the entire currency bloc. ... [T]he real crisis is the more fundamental question of *how the European continent is to be ruled in the 21st century*” (June 28; emphasis added throughout).

The answer to that question has been embedded in the book of Revelation for almost two millennia.

It is now coming to fruition.

Since the great prophecies of Daniel and the Apostle John were revealed to Herbert Armstrong in the early phase of his ministry, we have understood that a postwar united Germany would emerge over time to lead a federation of European nations, comprising 10 regional national groupings under 10 individual leaders, under the dominating religious hegemony of Rome. That’s how the European Union will be ruled in the 21st century. The question that remains is, just how will that come about?

The Answer May Be Coming Clear

The *Trumpet* has carefully watched and regularly reported on developments in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Our online archive at theTrumpet.com is filled with articles giving a blow-by-blow description of this emerging geopolitical phenomenon.

Now, the reality of the changing nature of the European Union is starting to be understood by the better observers of the European scene. One of the best, and one we often quote, is Stratfor. Marko Papić’s incisive analysis considers an extremely interesting prospect: that of *European nations dividing into*

separate regional groupings.

European nations face intense economic pressure from the current euro crisis. At the same time, in today’s volatile world they see mounting threats to their own national security. The combination of their perceived need to elevate their defense capacity, along with their constricting capital and resources, is leading these nations to consider more seriously a novel solution: The EU could break up into regional battle groups cen-



tered around EU member nations having particular security interests in common.

Like many of the initiatives that EU elites have developed to further their imperialist dream, the battle groups concept has developed over time. Initially put forward at the December 1999 European Council summit in Helsinki and then launched in 2003, the concept entailed setting up rapid response regional battle groups of 1,500 personnel, deployable within 5 to 10 days. Fifteen such groups, both national and multinational, exist today.

The driving force behind the development of these battle groups is the Lisbon Treaty/European constitution. As a January 2010 European Union Security and Defense White Paper makes clear, the Lisbon Treaty demands that all EU countries improve their “military capabilities and put them at the service of the ESDP/CSDP”—that is, the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), also known as the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP).

Though seeds were sown for the creation of regional European battle groups a decade earlier, that treaty provided the impetus for them to evolve into “the creation of sub-regional armed forces” (ibid).

Political tensions within Europe are now accelerating this process. The combined forces of economic and financial crises, progressive invasion by immigrants, the creeping Islamization of European society, perceived security threats to its south resulting from this year’s “Arab Spring”—plus increasing disinterest in European affairs by its traditional military savior, the United States—have all combined to hasten the division of Europe into regional battle groups, enabling better field command and control among nations with common interests to protect.

But this process should not be viewed as the disintegration of the EU. Rather, it is but part of a continuing effort by European military elites who have one goal in mind: “The final goal is to put European armies within a harmonized framework” (ibid). Such a framework will involve what has become known as “networked security.” As the quoted white paper indicates, “EU armed forces in the 21st century should be able to defend EU member states’ interests. They have to be expeditionary and be sustainable, joint and interlocked with civilian crisis management.”

The paper’s authors comment that “To achieve this does not necessarily require significantly more financial resources, but *political will*.”

Does Europe have that “political will”?

Even a cursory glance at Europe today gives the impression that here is a continent of tremendous potential, of significant economic clout, being the single greatest trading entity in the world. Yet, as the dithering over the euro crisis demonstrates, the EU lacks that *strong collective political will* to realize the destiny its postwar founding fathers envisaged.

And Yet ...

As Marko Papić rightly observed, “This is ultimately the source of the current sovereign debt crisis, the lack of political oversight over economic integration gone wrong. The eurozone’s economic crisis brought this question of Europe’s political fate into focus” (op. cit.).

This is why we at the *Trumpet* see the eurozone crisis as more of a catalyst to the fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation than the opposite.

Papić correctly asserts, “On the security front, we already have our answer: the regionalization of European security organizations. NATO has ceased to effectively respond to the national security interests of European states. Germany and France have pursued an accommodationist attitude toward Russia, to the chagrin of the Baltic States and Central Europe. As a response, these Central European states *have begun to arrange alternatives.*” Note this! “The four Central European states that make up the regional Visegrad Group—Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary—have used the forum as the mold in which to create a *Central European battle group*. Baltic States, threatened by Russia’s general resurgence, have looked to expand military and security cooperation with the Nordic countries, with Lithuania set to join the *Nordic Battlegroup*, of which Estonia is already a member. France and the United Kingdom have decided to enhance cooperation with an expansive military agreement at the end of 2010, and London has also expressed an interest in becoming close to the developing Baltic-Nordic cooperative military ventures.

“Regionalization is currently most evident in security matters, but it is only a matter of time before it begins to manifest itself in *political and economic matters* as well.”

Europe is on course to divide into 10 *distinct regional groupings*, each under a dominant political leader, yielding their combined economic and military strength to *one predominant imperial leader*.

This is precisely what biblical prophecy directs us to be watching for within Europe today.

Positioned to Gain Control

The concept of Europe’s security and defense evolving into a strategy entailing a number of regional battle groups under a central command structure is not new. It is embraced and endorsed by the ESDP, and enabled by the Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution; it came into being on Jan. 1, 2010. Although it cooperates with NATO, the ESDP falls under the jurisdiction of the EU. Under the Lisbon Treaty, the EU is

empowered to develop a united military force supported by a consolidated European armaments industry.

An interesting development, however, occurred about the time the Lisbon Treaty was ready to pass—one that points to the future of how this military force will be directed.

Before the Lisbon Treaty was ratified, Germany’s Federal Constitutional Court determined that, unless a contrary law was enacted first, that treaty would strip the German parliament of its sovereign right to govern the deployment of German military forces. The court quickly acted to ensure that *German law would override EU law*. It determined that the Bundestag must have ultimate say as to whether the German Army participates in any EU military operation.

Germany is the *only* EU member nation to act to preserve this right.

The remarkable upshot of this trick is that Germany, alone of all EU member nations, can decide whether or not to support any military initiative put forward by other EU member nations. Since the EU member nations are bound by treaty to come to each other’s defense when faced with a security risk, no EU military action can proceed without the specific consent of the German parliament!

So, the effective deployment of any EU battle group must be ultimately at the behest of Germany!

What to Watch

What should we now watch for as German imperialist elites contemplate their next move?

Marko Papić observed that “Taxation is one of the most basic forms of state sovereignty, and one does not share it with countries that do not share one’s political, economic and security fate. ... [T]he interests of the integrating states have to be closely aligned on more than just economic matters” (ibid).

There is an interesting phrase in the prophecy of Daniel that may indicate the prospect of fiscal union of the prophesied northern power (Daniel 11:20). That is certainly something to be watching for in the continuing wake of euro crisis contagion. Greece is the front-runner and test case for EU-German elites in their efforts to enact centralized control over budgetary and taxation matters in EU member states seeking bailouts.

But as Papić mused, “Control over budgets goes to the very heart of sovereignty, and European nations will not give up that control unless they know their security and political interests will be taken

seriously by their neighbors. *We therefore see Europe evolving into a set of regionalized groupings.* ... [R]egional organizations of like-minded blocs is the path that seems to be evolving in Europe, especially if Germany decides that its relationship with core eurozone countries and Central Europe is more important than its relationship with the periphery” (ibid).

It’s a feasible argument based on current observations, and certainly something to watch closely. Whether the regionalization of the European Union takes place according to such a pattern and under such conditions is uncertain.

However, one overarching fact remains clear. Bible prophecy foretells that this great northern power will be administered by 10 *leaders* led in turn by one outstandingly dominant leader, who will bring the combined economic, military and political power of that 10-group combine to the point that it will have devastating effect for a short time on the whole globe. This scenario certainly suggests regional groupings.

The dividing of EU military power into specific regional battle groups to more efficiently and rapidly project EU power beyond the Continent appears to align directly with the prophecies of Revelation 13, 17 and 18, especially when compared with the geopolitical considerations involving the great prophesied northern power in the book of Daniel. This then is also worth watching closely.

Yet, ultimately, current tensions in Europe will soon reach the point that will force the invitation of a prophesied charismatic political and military leader to come to the fore, no doubt with the backing of Europe’s most prominent and traditional spiritual guide, Rome (Daniel 11:21-34).

Until this happens, the degree of union within Europe required to bring this prophesied power to daily headline status will not occur. But it *will* happen, for the Scriptures cannot be broken! (John 10:35). ■

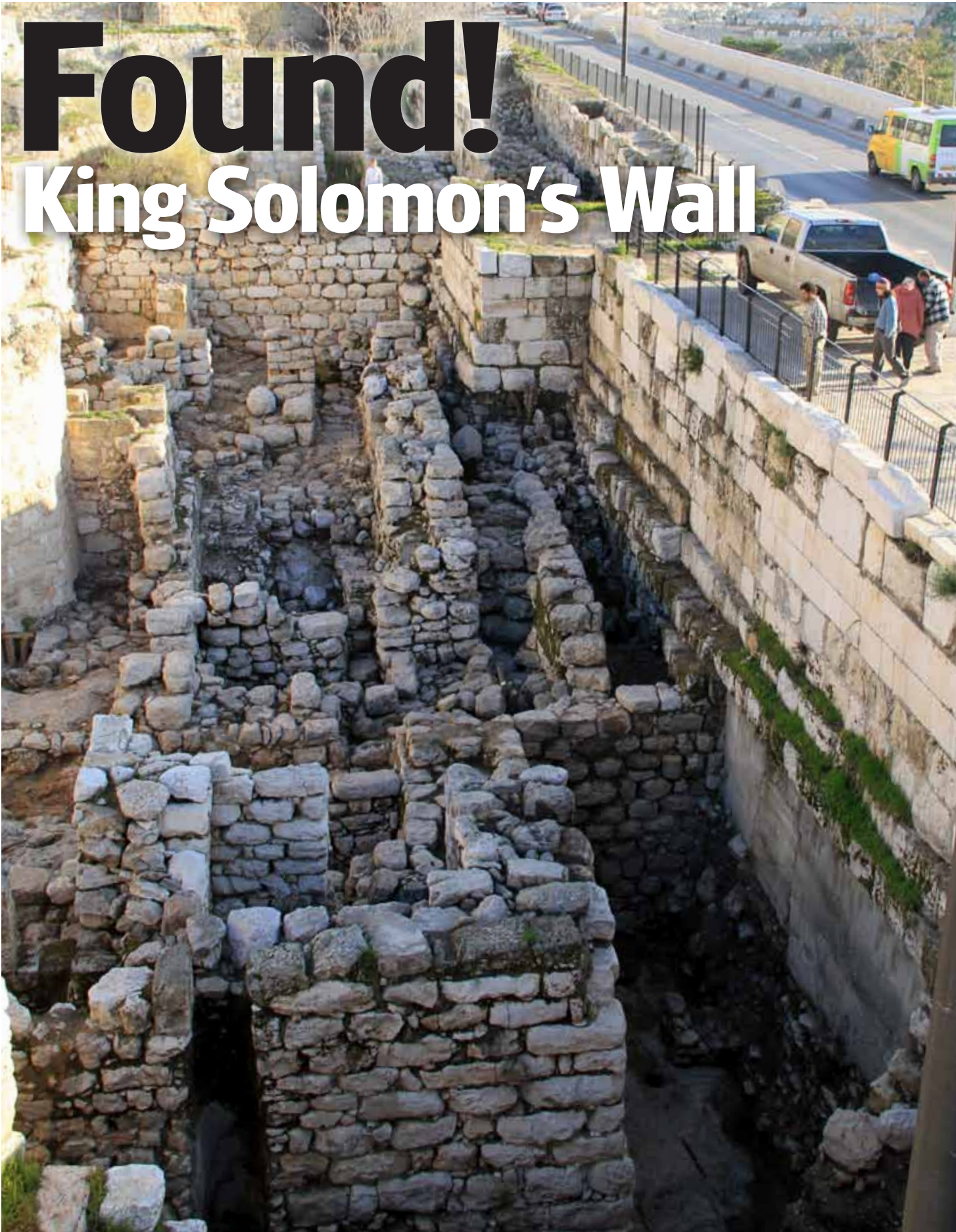


THIS MAN SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN

And he said it decades ago. But his insight is *still* ahead of the trend in 2011. Who was he? *How did he know?* Find out! Request your **FREE** copy of *He Was Right!*

Found!

King Solomon's Wall



Remarkable archeological discoveries in Jerusalem are challenging critics of the Bible's account of King David and King Solomon. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

AROUND THE WORLD, PEOPLE love to have their minds stirred by humanity's ancient edifices. Be it the Parthenon in Greece, built 2,400 years ago for the goddess Athena, China's Great Wall, Rome's famous Coliseum, the Vatican's Basilica of St. Peter or the Taj Mahal, these iconic structures capture imaginations and have become gateways into history.

In June, another imagination-stirring edifice was added to that list.

This structure is not only older, but more remarkable and more inspiring than any of the others. Situated just outside the Old City in Jerusalem, the Ophel City Wall site sits between the City of David and the southern wall of the Temple Mount. Now open to the public, the Ophel Wall features ancient artifacts dated to the 10th century B.C., a period during which the ancient kingdom of Israel experienced extraordinary expansion under King David and his son and heir, Solomon. Among the Ophel discoveries is an impressive edifice—a 70-meter-long and 6-meter-high wall—constructed during King Solomon's reign.

Unfortunately, Solomon's towering wall hasn't captured enough imaginations. Not yet anyway.

Now Open to the Public!

Archeological digs on the Ophel have occurred on and off since the early 20th century. It wasn't till January 2010 that the most spectacular discovery was made. Under the direction of Dr. Eilat Mazar, an esteemed archeologist who has a rich history of digging on the Ophel, the excavation was carried out with assistance from the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and volunteer students from Herbert W. Armstrong College in Edmond, Oklahoma. On June 21, after months of preparing the Ophel Wall site and its artifacts for tourists, Dr. Mazar, together with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, announced that it was officially open to the public.

"Beginning today, visitors will actually be able to walk through First Temple

remains, *touch the stones*, enjoy and study about yet another period of the archeology of the city of Jerusalem," announced Jacob Fisch, executive director of the Friends of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The opening of the Ophel site was a big deal for Jerusalem. Though the city is packed with historic sites and incredible artifacts, tourists haven't been able to explore the history of the First Temple period—until now.

The wall has been dated to the 10th century B.C., and all evidence indicates that it was built by King Solomon and is the one mentioned in 1 Kings 3:1. This scripture speaks of Solomon building his own palace, "and the house of the Lord, and the wall of Jerusalem round about." It's pretty incredible, when you think about it—being able to reach out and touch a wall that King Solomon himself strolled by daily three millenniums ago!

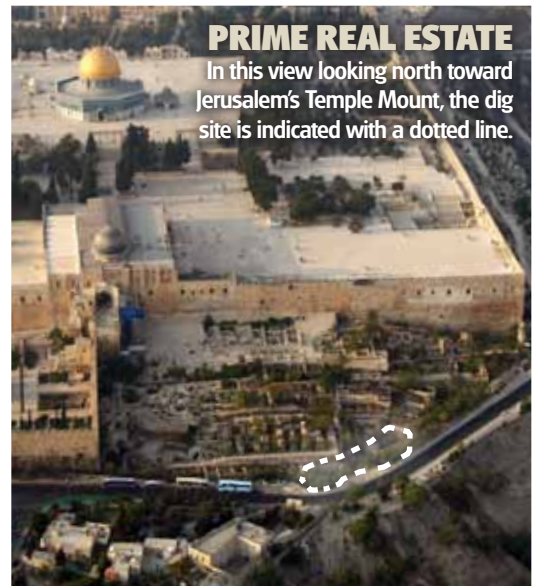
Importantly, this gigantic wall not only confirms the presence of Solomon in Jerusalem, it also confirms the biblical narrative of ancient Israel as a large and advanced kingdom. "The city wall that has been uncovered testifies to a ruling presence," Mazar told the *Trumpet* soon after its discovery in 2010. "Its strength and form of construction indicate a high level of engineering."

Speaking at the official unveiling ceremony, Dr. Mazar stated again that the "reality was that a very highly skilled fortification and sophisticated fortification was built by King Solomon." The wall contains the largest hewn stones from the First Temple period ever found in Israel. Only a thousand years later, with the construction undertaken by Herod the Great, did greater-size building blocks appear in Jerusalem.

Bible critics take pleasure in ridiculing Scripture's account of King David and King Solomon. They believe these men were mere chieftains of an obscure, primitive tribe of shepherders tucked away in the hills of Judea. These critics need to visit Jerusalem and stand beneath Solomon's towering edifice. As they gaze at its impressive size and sophisticated engineering, they ought to realize that such a wall couldn't have been patched together by a few hillbilly shepherders.

More Evidence

Visit the Ophel and you will see more than just Solomon's wall. Dr. Mazar and her team have also discovered other artifacts, including pottery shards, many of which date to the First Temple period (10th to 6th centuries B.C.). Like Solomon's wall, these finds confirm the biblical narrative of the presence of a major Israelite kingdom. The Ophel site includes a large gatehouse, royal edifices, a number of



PRIME REAL ESTATE

In this view looking north toward Jerusalem's Temple Mount, the dig site is indicated with a dotted line.

ritual baths (called *mikvaot*) and a dozen clay jars, called *pithoi*. Engraved on one of the remnants of the *pithoi* was a partial Hebrew inscription indicating that it belonged to a high-level government official.

The 6-meter-high gatehouse was a particularly stunning discovery. Constructed in a style typical of the First Temple period, and much like others uncovered in Megiddo, Beersheva and Ashdod, Dr. Mazar believes the gatehouse is actually the "water gate" mentioned in Nehemiah 3:25-26: "Pedaiah ... and the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the water gate on the east and the projecting tower," she points out.

More proof that archeology and the Bible, as Mazar states, "connect one to one."

Another thrilling find, though slightly less imposing than the colossal wall or gatehouse, was a fragment

TOUCHSTONE This gatehouse complex was uncovered at the Solomonic excavation site on the Ophel in Jerusalem.

Goals & Purposes

PUBLISHED in the public interest, the *Trumpet* deals with matters of social, family and environmental concern. It includes articles on international news, politics, philosophy, religion and education, especially where these have a bearing on the quality of life.

The magazine is not a political publication and is not backed by any political party or pressure group.

The publication rights of the magazine are owned by the Philadelphia Church of God, and the purpose of the *Trumpet* is to inform and educate, putting world events into true perspective and creating an awareness of the seriousness of the times in which we live. Direct emphasis is placed on the values of Christian morality and the social results of the increasing rejection of these values. Space is at times given to controversial ideas, which may help clarify to readers the different aspects of essential issues.

The *Trumpet* carries no subscription price. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from readers. The financial support of the magazine comes from readers who have become convinced of its value and want to ensure that the *Trumpet* be made available free of charge to an increasing number of readers. Your contributions are welcomed and gratefully received.

In a world continually confronted by problems and crises, the *Trumpet* strives to give reasons for the bad news and answers to life's dilemmas that, if applied, could bring good news and right results. This magazine also seeks to make plain the only option left to mankind if we are to survive. We announce that when mankind fails to avert the ultimate disaster, it will take a divine plan to save this Earth and establish a new order where all living will be able to enjoy lasting peace, happiness, security and prosperity.

of a 3,000-year-old clay tablet covered with cuneiform script. Discovered in the Ophel dig and currently on display at the Davidson Center in Jerusalem's Old City, experts say the thumb-size splinter is the oldest written document ever found in Jerusalem.

Of course, the Ophel discoveries are only the latest in a long line of archeological finds proving accurate the biblical account of ancient Israel's presence in the Holy City. In recent years, archeologists have made spectacular discoveries all over the city—bullae and coins, pottery, walls and gatehouses, tunnels—proving the Jews' historic link to Jerusalem. Since 2005, Dr. Mazar has uncovered many fascinating items in and around the City of David, including King David's palace, bullae (clay discs used to seal scrolls) inscribed with Hebrew names mentioned in the Bible and the wall around Jerusalem constructed by Nehemiah, recorded in the book of Nehemiah.



EVIDENCE These jar handles were found at the site.

These archeological discoveries rank among the most important ever made. Not because they prove the Jews' historic connection to Jerusalem, but rather, because they **PROVE THE BIBLE ACCURATE!**

But Where Is the Media Coverage?

Tragically, most people ignore or reject this inspiring reality. June's official inauguration of the Ophel City Wall, for example, came with a regrettable, shameful side story: the virtual blackout in the Western media. Outside of a few Israeli outlets, the inauguration of one of the most remarkable archeological discoveries in recent history was met with shocking silence!

The reason, in large part, is that the discovery of a significant Jewish presence in Jerusalem as early as the 10th century B.C. undermines the popular leftist narrative that the biblical account of a Davidic

monarchy is exaggerated or a fallacy. The Ophel discoveries, as Jonathan Tobin accurately pointed out in *Commentary*, are a "standing rebuke to those who refer to parts of Israel's capital as 'traditional Palestinian' or 'Arab East Jerusalem'" (June 21).

With this in mind it was telling that, at least from the articles I read and the footage I viewed, there was no indication that Israeli officials at the inauguration brandished the Ophel finds as a political instrument. This was an ideal opportunity for the Jews to politicize the archeology, to unsheathe these stunning artifacts and wield them as a weapon to dismember the left's false narrative. They didn't. Instead, Dr. Mazar, Mayor Barkat and the other Israeli officials who attended looked beyond the politics and concentrated on the lesson that is truly the most important: They celebrated the fact that these ancient edifices and artifacts prove the veracity of the Bible!

This site "shows that the Bible is real," Mr. Barkat stated. "It shows that 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, Jerusalem was the center of the world. And we love to share that with the world."

Dr. Mazar, a lady with an infectious passion for Jerusalem archeology, emphasized the same theme: "So many people in the world appreciate historical sources, from the Bible, including in the New Testament. The thing is, when it becomes tangible, it makes it easy to understand. People believe, in their ways, that which is written in the Bible, *but they have no idea that sometimes, lots of it, can really be seen. AND CAN BE TOUCHED.*" That's a neat observation: When you walk through the Ophel Wall, it's like you're walking through the pages of the Bible.

Sadly, too many are blinded by prejudiced politics and are missing out on the inspiring truths embodied in this dig. Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly difficult to reject the biblical account of a formidable Israelite kingdom during the 10th century B.C. reigns of King David and King Solomon. Not because of any elaborate Jewish spin campaign, or crafty maneuvering by Israeli politicians, or the work of prejudiced historians and archeologists.

Rather, rejecting this history is made more difficult by the continual surfacing of hard, quantifiable, even **TOUCHABLE**, evidence proving the Bible true! ■

Keep Your Word

BY JOEL HILLIKER

“BUT DADDY, YOU SAID WE would play soccer when you got home from work!”
Guilty.

Trouble is, when I said that, I didn’t know about the unplanned meeting that got me home 20 minutes later than usual. Plus I just didn’t feel like running around at the moment.

Ever happened to you? This is a crucial moment of decision for a dad. And the implications of our choice here might be bigger than we think.

How important is it for a child’s parents to be true to their word? *Enormously* important, when you consider that in the eyes of a small child, a parent stands in the place of God. We equip our children to understand how dependable, how trustworthy, how consistent God is by how well we exhibit those qualities.

Fathers in particular must give this serious thought as we lead our families.

Imagine the man who wants to take his family on a trip and announces it. The whole family is excited. But as the date of departure nears, obstacles arise—unexpected costs, unforeseen snags. Other things take precedence. The trip doesn’t seem as important. The father cancels the trip.

Commenting on this hypothetical situation in *Man of Steel and Velvet*, Aubrey Andelin writes, “The lack of follow-through on the part of the father can have a disheartening effect on the family. Not only is there a loss of enriching experiences that could just as well have been had, but *the family suffers a certain lack of security*, especially if it happens often. They will come to distrust their father’s word. When new plans are presented, there will be doubt concerning the outcome. *The family will lack faith* that the plans will materialize, and disillusionment will set in” (emphasis added).

The author concludes, “Considering these doubts, it appears it would be best to follow through even if it may not be quite as prudent as originally thought.”

Obviously, we are human, and unsurpassable obstructions can arise; it is certainly wise to state plans as probabilities rather than absolute promises (James



4:13-15). Nevertheless, the basic point stands. How much does our dependability as fathers and mothers influence our children’s *faith*? The correlation is probably stronger than we would like to admit.

Wouldn’t it be harder for a person to learn to trust God’s Word, if his or her dad never kept *his* word?

And wouldn’t it be easier to simply believe God, if Dad was always trustworthy?

In some vital ways, *dependability* is a *defining characteristic* of godly fatherhood.

The very foundation of our faith is God’s dependability. When our heavenly Father makes a promise, it’s as good as done. “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19). We can count on Him to fulfill His every word. We can depend on Him to follow through every time.

James 1:17 says that with our Father,

“there is no variation or shadow due to change” (Revised Standard Version).

“I am God, and there is none like me,” He assures us: “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

“For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29; RSV).

We fathers, we parents, must strive to teach our children this quality of God by *living* it. When we say we’ll do something, they should be able to count on us to follow through.

It’s tough sometimes. It takes sacrifice (though not nearly as much as God has made for us). But remember the goal: Matthew 5:48. I call it the father’s motto: “[Become] ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

Not only does our success here build a foundation for our children’s faith in God, it gives them a model to emulate. I’ve talked with my children about the importance of keeping your word. If I expect them to follow through with the things they say they will do, I have to make sure I’m setting the example.

One last thought about my promise to play soccer after getting home from work.

I recently attended the wedding of the daughter of one of my good friends. When he spoke at the reception, he brought me to tears as he reminisced about how, just yesterday, this radiant woman in white was his sweet little “pumpkin,” running to greet him when he got home from work.

I still have three of those pumpkins in my house. But, as my friend told me when we spoke afterward, just blink and they’re grown and gone.

“When my kids were growing up,” he said, “I always made sure I made time for them right when I came home from work. Every day, my son would greet me with a ball in his hand. ‘Dad—can we play?’ A lot of times I wouldn’t feel like it. But my wife reminded me, ‘You’d better take the opportunity while you’ve got it.’ So I always did. Even if it was for five minutes, I never told him no.”

Great advice. I know at least three children who deserve to be able to count on their dad like that.

Teach Your Children How to Handle Money

It's pretty clear: Most parents aren't passing on this vital skill! **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

THE AVERAGE COLLEGE FRESHMAN will receive eight credit card offers during just his first week of school. Across the national student body, 76 percent of enrollees carry at least one credit card and on average owe a balance of \$2,200.

Last year, 1.6 million students graduated from college—and 1.55 million people filed for personal bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, the percentage of “very happy” Americans peaked in 1957. Since then the figure has steadily declined despite most people consuming twice as much.

Here are two more startling facts. Fifty-two percent of teens say that when they want or need something, they simply ask for money from their parents or guardians. And 41 percent of teens get an allowance regardless of whether they do any chores.

Can we connect the dots? An alarming number of “highly educated” adults struggle to manage their money—simply because, when they were young, no one taught them how.

Proverbs says to train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Teaching youths how to handle money is not the school's or the government's responsibility—it is yours. The Bible commands parents to educate their children. It should be an everyday routine (Deuteronomy 11:19).

We can help our children learn important personal finance concepts that will pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

What to Teach?

First, teach them to give.

This may seem counterintuitive, but the *way of give* is the foundation of God's way of life that leads to physical and spiritual prosperity.

One of the best ways to teach your children about this way of life is through tithing and giving offerings. Don't just show up to church and hand your child a couple of bucks to give as you are walking in. He must know how important giving and paying tithes is to you. If we don't spend time and effort

planning our offerings and calculating our tithes, how can we expect our children to value these biblical commands?

Teach your child to *budget and plan ahead* for these opportunities to give. The skills they will learn from this effort alone—working hard, saving, sacrificing, contributing to something bigger than themselves—will help them for life. Plus, the same scripture that commands tithing promises blessings when we obey. God loves a cheerful giver (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7).

It is never too early to establish good financial habits.

I was startled a couple of months ago when my son—not quite 3 years old—began asking me about money. My wife and I had been teaching him the Ten Commandments and were explaining what stealing meant. We told him that if you want something you need to save up money and pay for it.

A couple weeks later, the money questions came. I explained that I earn money because I go to work. And that people at stores need money too, so they trade things like food and clothes for money. I tried to show him the difference between nickels, dimes and pennies and how it takes different amounts of each to add up.

His excited response? “I want to buy something.”

On Mom's next trip to the grocery store, she let him buy something, and helped him count out the quarters. He was thrilled to be such a “big boy.”

There's something addictive about buying things with other people's money. He naturally wanted to do it again. But the next time we went shopping, he got a different response: “No.” Disappointed, he said something along the lines of, “But I want it!” and “Dad, couldn't you just buy it?”

Time to teach him “delayed gratification.”

Too many people have never learned self-control. The “I want it now” mentality has caused untold financial problems. Plus, saying “no” to your children's wants can be a good way to teach the value of



money. It is a truth that people don't value things that come easily. If you give your children whatever they want, not only will they become spoiled, but they will fail to make the connection between earning money and being able to have things.

This is why giving allowances has been harmful to so many children. Children don't understand how much hard work is required in the real world to earn those green pieces of paper. Money expert Dave Ramsey says that the concept of paying commissions for specific work is better than giving allowances. But this too can be dangerous if your children begin to believe they should be paid to do jobs that are just a part of being a family.

The point is that at a young age, children need to learn to appreciate money, as well as the hard work associated with earning it.

Practical Pointers

With small children (younger than 5), teach about saving money using clear jars



41 percent
of teens get an allowance regardless of doing chores.

41%

52%

52 percent of teens, when they want something, just get money from their parents.

or a piggy bank. Let them see their money grow as they add coins to the jar. Visual reinforcement can be a powerful tool. Be excited for them when they add the quarter they found on the street, or the dollar or two that Grandpa gave them.

When they are older (perhaps 5 to 12), consider the envelope system to teach them about giving, saving and spending. Have four envelopes labeled “tithes,” “offerings,” “savings” and “spending.” When they receive a gift of money for exceptional grades, or they shovel the neighbor’s driveway, teach them to divide their money up into the proper categories.

And remember, there must be some spending to keep it fun and fulfill *short-term goal setting*. But when the spending envelope is dry—and depending on the child, that might not take long—there should be no pilfering from the savings envelope. That is for *long-term goals*, and for teaching the value of having an emergency savings that you never touch.

If you have teenagers, help them open a savings and checking account. Teach them how money in a savings account earns a return, and how interest compounds and grows your savings over time. Also teach about the dangers of debt and having to pay interest on borrowed money. Make sure they know how credit cards work and how they can get hit with fees, penalties and high interest rates. If you don’t understand all these concepts yourself, the Internet contains valuable resources to help (and write for our free booklet *Solve Your Money Troubles!*). Show why a debit card is different from a credit card. Another good exercise is to teach your children how to balance a checkbook and to keep tabs on their account.

With older teens, especially those with jobs, make them pay for some things themselves. Help them set long-term savings goals. Teach them that not all expenses are things you look forward to, and show them that paying for others can be rewarding.

I remember the students in high school whose parents bought them a car when they turned 16. Inevitably, they became the ones who had to buy the bigger, fancier-than-they-could-afford cars or trucks later—on credit.

As a parent, it is our job to help our children avoid the pitfalls of life.

At Imperial Academy—a grade school and secondary school run by the Philadelphia Church of God, which publishes the *Trumpet* magazine—grade 11 and 12 students take a personal finance class. One of the assignments they receive is to interview someone from a previous generation about their money habits. How did Grandpa or Great-grandma handle money? What was it like back then? What money advice would they offer? What do they think about credit cards and borrowing money? How much money did they get paid? Did they ever receive an allowance? What did they spend it on?

You might be shocked at how much America has changed over the past few generations. It is obvious that many Americans have not taught their children to manage their finances. With each generation, we seem to be departing further from basic, sensible financial principles.

Whether you realize it or not, your children are learning from you. So make sure to set a good example, which is the most important teaching tool of all. Lead by example—and teach them! ■

no matter the result of the vote” (ibid). Thus, voters could no longer decide on the matter: Whoever was elected would be beholden to Frankfurt.

In Finland too, the ECB is flexing its muscles. In order to satisfy his European masters, the prime minister elect was forced to eschew forming a durable governing coalition in order to cobble together a parliamentary coalition certain to pass the bailout. The *Observer* reported, “Parliamentary historians have searched in vain to locate a precedent whereby a majority has been formed in a chamber for just one vote, rather than to build a government.”

And with each success, the European overlords are gaining confidence.

The most remarkable example is what the Eurocrats have done to Greece. “[T]he experts [require] that the country give up all remaining vestiges of its sovereignty, and, if necessary to win such national unity, even the office of the prime minister is negotiable,” the *Observer* wrote, accusing these “experts” of being “addicted to the ease of being able to force through what they want without heed of democratic norms.” In order to receive a second bailout, Greece is being forced to sell off tens of billions of euros’ worth of public assets (some say as much as €300 billion) under the scrutiny of “eurozone overseers.”

Clearly, a European monster is rising. But even more astounding, though unelected officials in Brussels and elsewhere are forcing their agenda on the Greeks, Irish, Portuguese and Finns, many people are actually craving an autocratic “strongman” to come and set things right.

In Greece, a recent Kappa Institute poll showed that 30 percent of the people actually *want* the country to be led by “a group of experts and technocrats.” Less than a quarter believe a democratically elected government can solve the nation’s economic problems, and a full 22.7 percent want “a strongman” to solve the crisis. The *Observer* commented, “When the experts who give lip service to how much they believe in European democracy treat it so cheaply, they should not be surprised when the real junta, the real colonels, take command.”

Democracy is dying in Europe. National sovereignty is being washed away. And Europe is being primed for a “strongman” to come to the forefront with solutions to its economic crisis. To see where the Bible says it is all heading, read Gerald Flurry’s February cover story, “A Monumental Moment in European History!”

Eurocrats in action: the powerful European Central Bank.



The birth of a dictatorship

EUROPEAN UNION DEMOCRACY HAS large, dangerous cracks, according to a June 17 *EU Observer* article. In essence, the EU has gone from trying to coerce the public, to autocratically controlling the Union’s political parties.

“Europe seems to have slipped almost imperceptibly in the space of only a few months into an electoral interzone, a crack in the pavement of democracy,” *EU Observer* said. “The formal trappings of clean elections—in which political parties with competing manifestos contest a ballot free of voter intimidation—are all still there, but someone else has decided in advance what the result will be.”

With EU member states Ireland, Portugal, Finland and Greece having already fallen victim to this “post-political phenomenon,” the article said more are sure to follow. Even without military maneuvering, it said, “a junta has installed itself nonetheless, a junta of ‘experts,’ technocrats, those educated in the knowledge of What Needs to Be Done.” Having seen “how easy it is to intimidate democracy,” these experts “have now gone so far, it appears, as to be on the verge of decapitating a government.”

European officials forced Ireland into bailing out its banking sector, putting taxpayers on the hook. Then when Ireland held elections, the EU and the International Monetary Fund told all

parties they couldn’t renegotiate the bailout or opt out—essentially depriving Irish voters of any choice in the matter. The implication was, even parties that campaigned on renouncing the bailout would not be allowed to do so. The message from the EU was: Take the bailouts, further indebt your country, or we will



SÓCRATES

crash you ourselves.

This dictatorial approach was repeated with Portugal. It is becoming clear that EU nations are not as sovereign as they thought they were.

EU Observer then showed the absolute power of the European Central Bank (ECB), which is largely controlled by Germany. It literally brought down the Portuguese government. “After months of [Portugal’s] prime minister, José Sócrates, refusing to acquiesce to pressure to accept a bailout for the sake of the wider eurozone, the European Central Bank simply pulled the plug on his economy.” It did this by giving the head of Portugal’s banking association what he later called “clear instructions” to ensure Portuguese banks would stop buying government bonds if Lisbon did not seek a rescue.

After that, the same day Portugal agreed to the deal, “EU and ECB experts demanded that even though the parties were in the middle of an electoral campaign, all main parties sign an accord endorsing the bailout memorandum,

45 Unemployment rate among 16-to-24-year-olds in Spain

104 Days Europe has been bombing Libya, as of June 30

200 Number of brand-new Leopard battle tanks Germany agreed to sell Saudi Arabia



Waking up to a religious war

Over 105,000 Christians are martyred every year, Italian sociologist Massimo Introvigne said at the International Conference on Inter-religious Dialogue between Christians, Jews and Muslims, which concluded on June 3. Cardinal Péter Erdo of Budapest stated: “Europe should be preparing for a new wave of emigration, this time of Christians fleeing persecution.” The conference was hosted by Hungary as the highlight of its presidency of the EU. Watch for Europe to forcibly confront this persecution.

1 | GERMANY 2 | RUSSIA

Look out—they’re cooperating

BERLIN AND MOSCOW ARE COLLABORATING TO FORMALLY resolve the continuing frictions between Moldova and its breakaway region of Transnistria. These efforts mark the first demonstrable indication of Russo-German collaboration to resolve European security problems. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin agreed on the resolution on June 14 when they met in Switzerland.

Ever since the region of Transnistria gained de facto independence from Moldova shortly after the Soviet Union’s fall, tension has thrived. Moscow has propped up the breakaway territory, in part by stationing 500 Russian soldiers there. Moldova leans toward Europe in its politics, but Transnistria is a staunch Russian ally. The new resolution is expected to grant Transnistria representation in Moldova’s parliament and allow European security forces to help Russian troops there.

However, Stratfor notes, “The specific details of the agreement are far less important than the fact that this is the first concrete instance of Russia and Germany working jointly to dictate the terms of key European security issues” (June 17).

The real significance is that Berlin and Moscow hope the agreement will convince the world that rising German-Russian cooperation is not a threat. Berlin wants to convince



When Russian soldiers don't have Germany to worry about, how might they be put to use?

other European nations, especially in Central Europe, to view the cooperation as a force for peace; it is willing to see Moldova move toward Russia in order to sell this idea.

Germany and Russia have been at odds with each other throughout history. The periods of cooperation between them, such as

those initiated by the 1922 Treaty of Rapallo and the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, have been based on mutual strategic necessity in the lead-up to major conflicts. History is consistent on this point: Germany and Russia are not close friends, and any appearance that they are is a harbinger of conflict.



Saudi policemen crack down to prevent a “Day of Rage” against the regime.

1 | GERMANY 5 | SAUDI ARABIA
Making friends in the Mideast ...

German federal police have been training Saudi Arabian forces in how to deal with protests, according to a report by *Fakt* shown on German television on May 30. Officially, the police officers are aiding in border security, but classified documents and anonymous German police revealed that their job goes beyond the official government description. Watch for Saudi Arabia to increasingly reach out to Germany for protection.

6 | IRAN ... as well as enemies

Flying to India on May 31 and about to cross Iranian airspace, a plane carrying German Chancellor Angela Merkel received a message that Iran had rescinded its permission for the plane to traverse its territory. The incident instigated a diplomatic row and showed



MERKEL

a growing rift between Germany and Iran. Despite U.S. and EU sanctions, until recently Germany was one of Iran’s most important trade partners. Now, German politicians are cracking down on Iran. Giant German corporations such as Siemens and ThyssenKrupp are moving out of Iran, and Merkel recently announced that the Hamburg-based European-Iranian Trade Bank (EIH) would be shut down. The U.S. Treasury Department’s Stuart Levey called the EIH one of the “few remaining access points to the European financial system.” Its closure will be a blow to Iran. Expect Iran to lash out in response—and push the limits of European patience.

3 | SPAIN 4 | GREECE No job? Take to the streets

The financial crisis is fueling unrest across the Continent. The most dramatic has been in Spain: With the jobless rate now at more than 45 percent for 16-to-24-year-olds, tens of thousands of Spanish youths have taken to the streets to protest. Greece’s youth unemployment rate is also high, at 33.5 percent; Ireland’s and Italy’s are both 28 percent, and Portugal’s and France’s are above 20 percent. This mass unemployment and dissatisfaction with the political system risks sending nations in a radical new direction. Even moderate citizens of several EU nations have recently voted for parties with an extremist past, militant rhetoric and a dubious political agenda. In France, Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the National Front, is leading in the polls. In Germany, genuine fears exist concerning the possible emergence of a nationalist party. This growing discontent could well lead to the ascension of a new Charlemagne in Europe.



NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/APP/GETTY IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; JOHN MACDOUGALL/APP/GETTY IMAGES; FAREZ NURELDINE/APP/GETTY IMAGES



The Iraqi Sadr movement's Mahdi Army marches in Sadr City.

1 | IRAN 2 | IRAQ 3 | AFGHANISTAN 4 | PAKISTAN

Eager to show America the door

IRANIAN LEADERS ARE WORKING TO SOLIDIFY TIES WITH Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq in a move that highlights Iran's goal of taking a lead role in the region, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on June 27. At a meeting in Tehran on June 24, for example, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke to the presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan about issues relating to the departure of NATO forces from Afghanistan.

In Iraq, tens of thousands of supporters of anti-American Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr marched through Baghdad on May 26 in a warning that they would restart the Shiite insurgency if U.S. troops do not leave Iraq by the end of the year. Sadr is backed by Iran and enjoys considerable support among Iraqis. His party's support of Nouri al-Maliki was critical to the prime minister gaining a second term and forming a government last year.

This public protest is a complication for America. Outgoing U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has asked Baghdad to host American troops in Iraq past the end of the year, the deadline stipulated in the current agreement between the two countries. While some Iraqi political groups support such an extension, it is widely opposed by Iraqi citizens—and Sadr.

America wants to stay in Iraq longer in order to maintain stability and counteract Iran. "The Iraqi Security Forces will not be able to defend Iraq's sovereignty, independence from Iran, and internal stability without American assistance, including some ground forces, for a number of years," defense analyst Frederick Kagan argued in a paper released in May.

Washington is trying to delay the inevitable. As the *Trumpet* has long said, Iran will cement its takeover of Iraq once the U.S. leaves.

And don't forget its 'peaceful' nuclear program

Iran has worked on technology to place nuclear material on a missile and detonate it, the International Atomic Energy Agency wrote in a nine-page report May 24. The report cited evidence that Iran had begun "experiments involving the explosive compression of uranium deuteride to produce a short burst of neutrons." This type of device would be used as a trigger for a nuclear bomb; Harold M. Agnew, former director of the Los Alamos weapons lab, said, "I don't know of any peaceful uses" for it. The evidence discredits Iran's claims that it is developing nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

5 | LIBYA Where jihadists are the 'good guys'

A report by two French think tanks indicates that the West is on the side of Islamic terrorists in the war against Muammar Qadhafi in Libya. Six experts who consulted with representatives on both sides of the conflict concluded that jihadists have played a predominant role in the eastern Libyan rebellion and that "true democrats" represent only a minority. They also found that the justifications given for Western military intervention in Libya were largely based on media exaggerations and "outright disinformation." It appears the current military campaign in Libya may well facilitate that country falling to Islamists and into the Iranian orbit—an outcome prophesied by the Prophet Daniel.

"No one can deny that the Libyan rebels who are today supported by Washington were only yesterday jihadists killing American GIs in Iraq."

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND STUDY ON TERRORISM AND AID TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM, AND THE FRENCH CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON INTELLIGENCE

6 | TURKEY Islamist revolution by stealth

Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won a resounding victory in parliamentary elections on June 12 with 50 percent of the vote. This means the status quo in Turkey will remain, with the Islamist-rooted AKP staying in power. Economic growth under the AKP has been largely credited for the party's success. However, two other important factors contributed just as much to its win: the appeal of the AKP's Islamic orientation to Turkey's Muslim population, and the anti-Western and anti-Israel direction the AKP has taken Turkey's foreign policy. Since Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan first came to power in 2002 elections, he has taken the secularist country in a more religious direction, seeking to bring Islamic culture into the political sphere. Political analyst Barry Rubin says the June elections mark an Islamist revolution by stealth. The *Trumpet* wrote back in November/December 2007: "Any shift within Turkey away from secularism and toward Islam could help alter the balance of power in the Middle East—most notably, in favor of Iran."



ERDOĞAN

7 | LEBANON Hezbollah coup complete

Five months after Hezbollah brought down the Lebanese government, Prime Minister Najib Mikati announced his new cabinet on June 13. Unsurprisingly, it is dominated by allies of Hezbollah. Most cabinet posts are held by the Hezbollah-led March 8 coalition, which helped bring the government down in January when its members quit in protest of a UN-backed tribunal investigating the murder of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (a tribunal expected to indict several Hezbollah members). Five months later, the Shiite terrorist group's coup was complete. Hezbollah and its Christian and Druze allies secured 18 posts in the new government—up from 11 under the previous coalition—enabling them to pass or block decisions more easily. In holding majority sway within parliament, Hezbollah is now freer than ever to pursue its terrorist agenda within the bounds of democratic rule in Lebanon's government.



MIKATI



A boom in security cooperation

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional security bloc dominated by China and Russia, celebrated its 10th anniversary in Kazakhstan on June 15. Over the past decade, SCO member nations have signed over 100 cooperation agreements and have greatly expanded cooperation in economics, security and culture. Now the SCO is on the verge of further expansion, with observer states Mongolia, Iran and Pakistan all seeking membership. India has also expressed its desire to gain full membership, an addition that would bring a further 1.19 billion people into the SCO's area of influence. Although China and Russia are the regional behemoths driving the unification of the East, the SCO may well be a vehicle they use to reach that destination.



A worker mans a Chinese natural gas plant.

8 | CHINA Hungry for energy

A surge in energy consumption last year bumped China ahead of the U.S., making it the world's biggest consumer of energy. According to a report published June 8, for the year 2010, China's consumption accounted for 20.3 percent of global demand compared to 19 percent for the U.S. China's consumption grew by 11.2 percent over the previous year, more than any other nation. As China's consumption grows, other nations, especially in Europe, will assume a more combative stance in securing resources for themselves. When more than one power aggressively pursues the world's wealth, intense competition results and eventually gives way to war.

9 | INDIA Talking again

An eight-member Indian military delegation arrived in China on June 19 to begin a six-day visit with Chinese military officials, marking a return to defense cooperation between the two Asian behemoths that was at a stalemate for a year. The two sides made the decision to resume military ties during the most recent BRICS summit in April.

10 | PHILIPPINES U.S.: Don't count on us!

Tensions in the South China Sea have been escalating since June. The Philippines appealed to the U.S. for help in the event of a military conflict with Beijing, expressing confidence the U.S. would honor the Mutual Defense Treaty it has held with Manila for 60 years. However, U.S. press attaché Rebecca Thompson responded that America would not side with any party. As America's willpower and financial resources wane, expect Asian nations to abandon the sinking U.S. ship and resolve their intercontinental skirmishes.



At a bank in Guangzhou, a man holds a stack of euros.

8 | CHINA 11 | RUSSIA

Dumping U.S., a dollar at a time

MOSCOW IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE LOWERING ITS HOLDINGS of U.S. debt as Washington scrambles to boost its anemic economic recovery, a top aide to President Dmitry Medvedev said on June 18. U.S. Treasury figures show that Russia's holdings of American debt fell from \$176.3 billion in October 2010 to \$125.4 billion in April 2011. Russia's financial reserves, totaling \$528 billion as of June 10, are the third largest in the world, after those of China and Japan.

China is following the same pattern, no longer buying dollars, but favoring euros instead. Premier Wen Jiabao visited Germany for the first-ever German-Chinese joint cabinet meeting on June 27, where he said he will continue to back purchases of European debt. Because China has around 26 percent of its currency reserves in euros, Beijing is committed to the currency's stability. Wen also underscored the important role confidence can play in helping the EU to correct its sovereign debt crisis. As Athens convulses, Beijing knows that holding euros is risky, but clearly it sees that holding dollars is far riskier.

In a further move to decrease their dependence on the dollar, Beijing and Moscow signed an agreement on June 26 permitting their bilateral trade to be conducted in their national currencies. Russian and Chinese companies will now be able to settle their business in rubles and yuans, and it is viewed as a consequence of rising bilateral trade between the two Asian giants. Last year, bilateral trade between them soared 50 percent to reach \$59 billion, making China Russia's biggest trading partner. Earlier in the month, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Russia and set the goal to increase Russo-Chinese trade to \$100 billion by 2015 and \$200 billion by 2020.

Watch for more nations to dump dollars as the U.S.'s economic fissures grow deeper.

"The share of our portfolio in U.S. instruments has gone down and probably will go down further."

ARKADY DVORKOVICH
AIDE TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
DMITRY MEDVEDEV



1 | ARGENTINA
U.S. snubs UK over Falklands

The United States has once again sided with Argentina, along with Venezuela, against the UK over the Falkland Islands. On June 7, America signed on to a draft declaration that calls for Britain to negotiate with Argentina over the sovereignty of the Falklands. This comes as Argentina has been increasing its aggression against the islands, and despite the fact there is nothing to negotiate: Argentina's claim to the islands is tenuous at best, and its inhabitants want Britain to retain sovereignty. The incident shows that despite President Obama's words of support during his visit to Britain in May, the special relationship between these two countries is dead. Britain, certain to get no help from the U.S., is prophesied in Scripture to lose the Falklands.



3 | CHILE 4 | COLOMBIA 5 | PERU
Look out, Mexico: New stock exchange in town

The stock exchanges of Chile, Colombia and Peru officially combined into a new South American Stock Exchange on May 30. This new market, called the Integrated Latin American Market (MILA), will start with a listing of 560 companies and will overtake Mexico as the largest stock market in Latin America. The launch of the new market doesn't mean the disappearance of each country's local exchange, but rather the creation of a new multi-border stock exchange that will provide an additional platform for companies to access investor capital.



2 | UNASUR
A continent unites

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) has made progress in becoming more like its EU role model. UNASUR leaders met in Lima, Peru, in May and issued a declaration calling for the region to pursue a common methodology in monitoring defense expenditures among member nations. Latin America remains a major customer for global defense suppliers and there are now calls for UNASUR to become more militarily integrated. Expect South America to continue looking to Europe for guidance as it integrates economically, politically and militarily.

6 | SOUTH AFRICA **Strengthening China's foothold**

The government of South Africa agreed in early June to closer relations with China in an effort to combat crime. South African Police Minister Maggie Sotyu met with the Chinese vice minister of public security on May 30. "Our main relationship with China is trade," said Sotyu. "They are our number one trade partners, but China felt that we needed to go beyond trade and we needed to deal with the issues of crime." Cooperation with regards to police training and the possibility of exchanging information between the police forces of both countries formed the basis of the talks. Expect China's interest in South Africa to magnify Beijing's voice in sub-Saharan affairs.



7 | SOMALIA 8 | KENYA
New wrinkle on Horn of Africa

Kenya is preparing to recognize Somaliland's independence from Somalia, which would create another new country in the Horn of Africa, according to claims made on May 22 by the Somaliland Press. Kenyans who are calling for their government to recognize Somaliland argue that its independence would help stabilize the region and stop Somalia's dreams of expansion into Kenya and eastern Ethiopia. Expect violence in the Horn of Africa, however, to push the region further into the arms of Iran and radical Islam. Bible prophecy predicts that Ethiopia will soon be allied with Iran, the end-time "king of the south" (Daniel 11:40).



Dry run

The Horn of Africa is engulfed in a devastating drought. The UN reported in June that more than 20,000 Somali refugees had arrived in the Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya over a two-week period. More than 50,000 refugees are living in makeshift shelters outside the structured camp. Expect droughts to increase in frequency and severity as the world nears the end of this age.





One ridiculously tall stack of dollars

THE UNITED STATES HIT ITS LEGAL borrowing limit on May 23. The Treasury Department said Congress must raise the debt ceiling by August 2 if the government is to avoid a default. The Obama administration is trying to hammer out a deal with lawmakers to cut federal spending in exchange for a debt-limit increase. The federal debt currently stands at \$14.5 trillion. If such an amount were made into a single stack of \$1,000 bills, it would be more than 900 miles tall. If the pile were made with \$1 bills, it would stretch to the moon and back twice.

The world is starting to wake up to the magnitude of the American government's debt. On June 10, a Chinese ratings agency accused the U.S. of defaulting on the massive debt it owes China. On June 13, PIMCO bond manager Bill Gross said America's financial condition was worse than that of Greece and other debt-saturated European nations. Then, the following day, a Gallup poll was published showing that Americans' confidence—the only thing keeping the beleaguered dollar afloat—was plummeting. If you are following economic developments closely—payrolls, railway loadings, the housing market, banking sector, foreign exchange markets and gold price—you know America is heading back into a recession.

A 'brotherhood' fraught with sibling rivalry

The United States hosted Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for six days in May. Setting the stage for tension, President Obama, in a State Department speech just prior to the visit, explicitly endorsed a Palestinian state along the 1967 lines and stated that such a state must be "contiguous." On May 22, Netanyahu met with Obama at the White House and two days later spoke before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, rebuffing the U.S. president's stated policies. The trip demonstrated that the Netanyahu-Obama relationship is at a low point. We could soon witness the prophesied breaking of the historic brotherhood between America and the Jewish state.



ANGLO-AMERICA

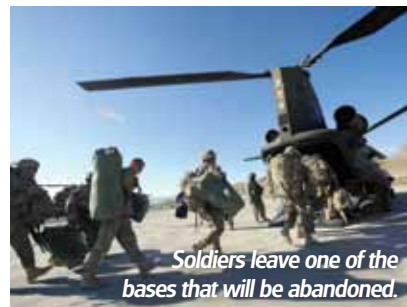
Why Empire died

At the end of June, Empire, Nevada, became a ghost town. Gone is one of the biggest mines in America—and along with it the mineral production, jobs and families it supported. After more than 100 years and two world wars, the Empire gypsum mine is eerily silent—not because the gypsum ran out, but because America is no longer growing like it once was. Gypsum is the primary ingredient in drywall and other masonry products. If homes are not being constructed and office complexes no longer being built, who needs wall-board? Empire is the latest victim in a country that has stopped building and expanding.



Tide of war 'recedes' in time for election

President Obama announced June 22 that he will bring home 10,000 U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2011 and 23,000 more by next summer, a withdrawal window that will conclude two months before voters decide whether to give him a second term. "Tonight," the president said from the East Room, "we take comfort in knowing that the tide of war is receding." Earlier in the month, Obama emphasized that America would be working closely with Germany and other NATO allies in empowering Afghans in their political and economic efforts to forge a lasting peace. Watch for Germany and the EU to step up efforts to stabilize the Middle East region as America withdraws into geopolitical isolation.



To raise a family, don't come here

Britain is the third-least family-friendly country in Europe, according to a study by the Relationships Foundation, a UK-based think tank. Its study looked at 25 indicators showing financial pressures, work pressures, caring and parenting pressures, and living environment. Only Romania and Bulgaria did worse in this study. It found that 20.9 percent of UK households with dependent children experienced "difficulty" or "great difficulty" in making ends meet. Fourteen percent of households in the UK, as well as in Germany, suffered under "highly critical" debt burdens (versus only 1 percent of Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian households). The study also found that Britain has the third-worst living environment in Europe.

Why gamblers always lose

Australians last year lost close to \$1,300 on gambling for every resident (not including tourists) age 17 and over, according to international gaming industry consultants H2 Gambling Capital. This statistic places Australians in the lead as the world's biggest gamblers. The Australian gambling industry, with clubs, hotels and casinos, employs about 160,000 people. "Problem gamblers routinely lose everything, including their jobs, family and friends, homes, minds and sometimes even their lives," said Tasmanian Independent MP Andrew Wilkie. This problem is having a devastating effect on thousands of people across the social spectrum. The bottom line is that any and all forms of gambling corrode our character to one extent or another—and that is why, even when money is won, gamblers always lose.

"The net worth of Bill Gates, roughly around \$56 billion, could only cover the deficit for 15 days. The net worth of Warren Buffet, roughly around \$50 billion, could only cover the deficit for 13 days."

JASON PEUQUET

POLICY ANALYST WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET

THE REST OF THE STORY

A Serbian soldier stands beside the graves of fellow troops killed in a Croatian ambush.



What Really Happened in Bosnia

One massacre was exaggerated. Another went unreported.
The reason for the double standard is shameful. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

IT WAS GENOCIDE. CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER called it “the largest ethnic cleansing of the entire Balkan wars.” A March 1999 *New York Times* article agreed with him.

“Investigators with the war-crimes tribunal in the Hague have concluded that this campaign was carried out with brutality, wanton murder and indiscriminate shelling of civilians,” Krauthammer wrote (*Time*, April 5, 1999).

Is this the dreaded Srebrenica “massacre,” commonly referred to in the media as the “worst atrocity in Europe since the Second World War,” perpetrated by the “evil” Serbs led by Ratko Mladic, who has now been arrested to be brought to justice?

No. This genocide was carried out by the Croats—the “good guys”—and thus, it was *encouraged and praised by the West*.

The Krajina Massacre

The massacre Krauthammer was describing occurred in the

region of Krajina in Croatia. Croatian troops forced an estimated 200,000 Serbs to flee (*National Post*, March 13, 2004).

“A war that begins with civilian areas being shelled at 5 a.m. when women and children are asleep in their beds and ends with a massive exodus of more than 100,000 people is surely tantamount to ethnic cleansing,” said UN spokesman Chris Gunness.

According to Robert Fisk, writing in the *Independent*, the European Union’s confidential assessment from Krajina in 1995 stated the following: “Evidence of atrocities; an average of six corpses per day, continues to emerge ... the corpses; some fresh, some decomposed, are mainly of old men. Many have been shot in the back of the head or had throats slit, others have been mutilated. Isolated pockets of elderly civilians report people recently gone missing or detained Endless Croat invitations for Serbs to return, guarantees of citizens’ rights and property

rights, etc., have gushed forth from all levels However, Serbian homes and lands ... continue to be torched and looted.

“Contrary to official statements blaming it on fleeing Serbs and uncontrollable elements, the crimes have been perpetrated by the HV Croatian Army, the CR Croatian police and CR civilians. There have been no observed attempts to stop it, and the indications point to a scorched-earth policy.”

Two senior Canadian military officers present in Croatia at the time testified that the Croats attacked indiscriminately and targeted civilians.

One of these officers, Maj. Gen. Andrew Leslie, estimated that around 500 civilians had been murdered. “In the hospital itself, there were bodies stacked in the corridors,” he said. “There were bodies in almost every hospital bed. And there were bodies lying in the foyer, the reception area and some of the corridors” (*National Post*, Dec. 9, 2005).

Yugoslav envoy Vladimir Pavicevic

claimed that 15,000 Serbs were dead in Krajina, and that this total included slain refugees and soldiers who had already surrendered (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Aug. 14, 1995). The International Committee of the Red Cross reported that 10,000 to 15,000 refugees were still missing over three weeks after the initial attack (*Sun Herald*, Aug. 27, 1995).

Why is Srebrenica everywhere, yet Krajina barely gets a mention? On April 15, Croatian Gen. Ante Gotovina was found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for what he did in Krajina. It was hardly mentioned in the press. When Ratko Mladic was captured on May 26, it was all over the papers.

The double standard on display here is a monumental story—when you understand who, ultimately, was really behind it.

Manipulating the Media

Serbia's earliest defeat came in the PR war. Early on, Serbia's enemies engaged Ruder Finn, an American public relations firm, to get their message out. James Harff, director of Ruder Finn's Global Public Affairs section, boasted about his success against Serbia.

"Nobody understood what was going on in (former) Yugoslavia," he said in an October 1993 interview with French journalist Jacques Merlino. "The great majority of Americans were probably asking themselves in which African country Bosnia was situated."

Ruder Finn took advantage of this ignorance. Its first goal was to persuade the Jews to oppose the Serbs—not an easy task. "The Croatian and Bosnian past was marked by a real and cruel anti-Semitism," said Harff. "Tens of thousands of Jews perished in Croatian camps. So there

was every reason for intellectuals and Jewish organizations to be hostile towards the Croats and Bosnians."

Harff used a couple of reports in the *New York Newsday* about Serbian concentration camps to persuade Jewish groups to demonstrate against the Serbs. "This was a tremendous coup," said Harff. "When the Jewish organizations entered the game on the side of the Bosnians, we could promptly equate the Serbs with the Nazis in the public mind."

He continued: "By a single move, we were able to present a simple story of good guys and bad guys which would hereafter play itself. We won by targeting Jewish audience, the right target. Almost immediately there was a clear change of language in the press, with the use of words with high emotional content, such as 'ethnic cleansing,' 'concentration camps,' etc., which evoked inmates of Nazi Germany and the gas chambers of Auschwitz. The emotional change was so powerful that nobody could go against it."

Western reporting of the Balkan wars became spectacularly biased. Consider the statements at the bottom of the page, most of which are from people who were actually in the Balkans during the wars.

Foreign Policy magazine reported, "Despite steady reports of atrocities committed there by Croatian soldiers and paramilitary units against Serbs, which some Belgrade correspondents were later able to confirm, the stories that reached the world talked only of Serb abuses In a three-month study of news reports, Howard University Professor of International Relations Nikolaos Stavrou detected 'a disturbing pattern in news coverage.' He claimed most of the stories were based on 'hearsay evidence,' with few attempts to show the 'other side's perspectives.' Ninety percent of the stories originated in Sarajevo, but

only 5 percent in Belgrade. Stavrou's analysis cited ethnic stereotyping, with Serbs referred to as primitive 'remnants of the Ottoman Empire' and Yugoslav Army officers described as 'orthodox communist generals' ... while newspaper photographs neglected to show suffering or dead Serbs or destroyed Serb churches and villages" (emphasis added throughout).

Foreign Policy pointed out that news outlets published many photos they said showed victims of Serbian persecution. But the captions were wrong. In many cases, the victims themselves were Serbs.

It is little wonder, then, that the events that took place in Srebrenica have been horribly twisted by the media. Yes, the Serbs killed Bosnian Muslims whom they had taken prisoner. But the context in which this occurred is vital to understanding this event.

The Truth About Srebrenica

The story portrayed in the media is that Bosnian Serbian forces under Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic invaded the UN "safe haven" of Sarajevo. Here they let the women, children and elderly escape before massacring all the men.

What is mentioned less often is that the *Bosnian Muslims were using the UN "safe haven" as a base for attacks on Serbian civilians.*

The UN admitted that Bosnian forces were violating the no-fly zone around Srebrenica and were smuggling weapons into the area (ICTY testimony by David Harland, civil affairs officer and political adviser to the UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In charge of the Muslim forces in Srebrenica was Naser Oric. Here is how French Gen. Philippe Morillon, commander of the UN troops in Bosnia from 1992 to 1993, described him in his ICTY

"Those of us who served as UN commanders in Bosnia realized the majority of the media reports were biased, to say the least. Whenever we tried to set the record straight we were—and continue to be—accused of being 'Serbian agents.'"

LEWIS MACKENZIE

FORMER UN PROTECTION FORCE (UNPROFOR) GENERAL IN
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND COMMANDER OF THE SARAJEVO SECTOR

"[T]he reporting and commenting of some members of the press corp in Sarajevo became close to becoming identified to the propaganda machine of the Bosnia government."

GEN. SIR MICHAEL ROSE

UNPROFOR COMMANDER IN BOSNIA

"The American press has become very partisan and anti-Serbian. They are very selective and manipulative with the information they use."

ANONYMOUS UN OFFICIAL

"I've worked with the press for a long time, and I have never seen so much lack of professionalism and ethics in the press. Especially by the American press, there is an extremely hostile style of reporting."

ANONYMOUS UN OFFICIAL

"I was shocked when a relative read a story to me over the telephone. My byline was on top of the story, but I couldn't recognize anything else."

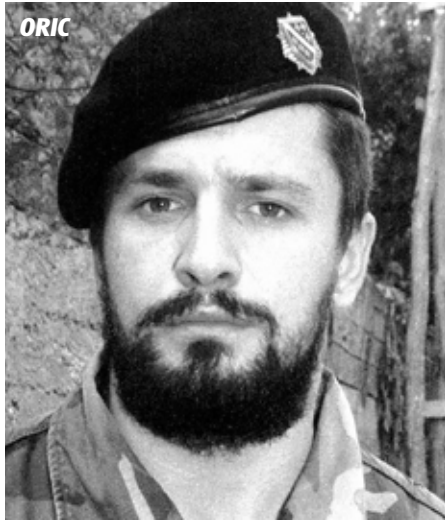
ANONYMOUS AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IN BELGRADE

"There is hypocrisy in the current outrage of Western journalists, politicians and voters. And perhaps even a strain of racism."

CHARLES LANE

NEWSWEEK

testimony: “Naser Oric engaged in attacks during Orthodox holidays and destroyed villages, massacring all the inhabitants. This created a degree of hatred that was quite extraordinary in the region ...”



In another part of his testimony, Morillon stated, “There were terrible massacres committed by the forces of Naser Oric in all the surrounding villages.”

He also stated: “I think you will find this in other testimony, not just mine. Naser Oric was a warlord who reigned by terror in his area and over the population itself. I think that he realized that those were the rules of this horrific war, that he could not allow himself to take prisoners. According to my recollection, he didn’t even look for an excuse. It was simply a statement: *One can’t be bothered with prisoners.*”

Naturally, Oric’s actions infuriated the Serbs. “They were in this hellish circle of revenge,” said Morillon. “It was more than revenge that animated them all. Not only the men. The women, the entire population was imbued with this. It wasn’t the sickness of fear that had infected the entire population of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the fear of being dominated, of being eliminated, it was pure hatred.”

It was this hatred and hunger for revenge that led to the Srebrenica massacre.

Continuing with his testimony, General Morillon stated that Oric pulled out of Srebrenica a week before it fell. “I said that Mladic had entered an ambush in Srebrenica, a trap, in fact. He expected to find resistance, but there was none. He didn’t expect the massacre to occur but he completely underestimated the amount of hatred that accrued. I don’t

believe that he ordered the massacres, but I don’t know. That is my personal opinion.”

The Serbs finally reacted to Oric’s provocations: When they took Srebrenica far more easily than they thought they would, they took their revenge on the men they found there. But, unlike Oric, they let the women and children go.

When asked by the judge if what the Serbs did in Srebrenica was a natural reaction to what happened under Oric, Morillon answered: “Yes. Yes, Your Honor. I am convinced of that. This doesn’t mean to pardon or diminish the responsibility of the people who committed that crime, but I am convinced of that, yes.”

The full context presents a very different picture of Srebrenica. It was not a cold-hearted, Nazi-style final solution for Bosnian Muslims. Instead it was a crime of passion—still a crime, but one provoked by crimes on the other side.

Morillon still held Mladic responsible for what happened in Srebrenica because he didn’t follow through on international agreements made two years earlier. But there is a big difference between a military leader who doesn’t trust the other side enough to make peace and, say, an Adolf Eichmann.

“All the horrors of all the ages were brought together, and not only armies but whole populations were thrust into the midst of them,” wrote Winston Churchill after World War I. “The mighty educated states involved conceived—not without reason—that their very existence was at stake. Neither peoples nor rulers drew the line at any deed which they thought could help them to win. Germany, having let hell loose, kept well in the van of terror; but she was followed step by step by the desperate and ultimately avenging nations she had assailed. Every outrage against humanity or international law was repaid by reprisals—often of a greater scale and of longer duration.”

“When all was over, torture and cannibalism were the only two expedients that the civilized, scientific, Christian states had been able to deny themselves: and they were of doubtful utility,” concluded Churchill.

Does his description of World War I sound any different from what happened in Srebrenica? That doesn’t make it right, of course. But the real blame for Srebrenica lies with those who started the war.

Who Started the War?

Western media blame the “evil” Serbs for causing war by trying to grab as much territory as they could while Yugoslavia fell apart. The facts show a different picture.

Lord Peter Carrington, former chairman of the peace conference on Yugoslavia, stated that the actions of the U.S.,

Germany and certain other European governments “made it sure there was going to be a conflict” in the region.

The European Community (precursor to the EU) was almost unanimous in agreeing that the best way to avoid a war in Yugoslavia was for it to remain one na-



tion. Member states voted 11 to 1 in 1991 to support a resolution stating that “the best way of achieving stability in the Balkans was for Yugoslavia to remain united, albeit in a revised, looser federal form.”

The one ended up overruling the 11.

Here’s how T.W. “Bill” Carr, associate publisher of *Defense and Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy*, described what happened: “Germany, despite its current problems, remains the strongest economy in Europe. During the Maastricht negotiations, a reunited Germany used that power to further what appeared to be *its historical strategic objective to control the territories of Croatia, Slovenia and Dalmatia, with their access to the Adriatic and Mediterranean.*”

“During protracted negotiations, Germany wore down the other EC members and eventually, at 0400 hours on the morning of the debate, the 11:1 vote to hold Yugoslavia united turned into a unanimous vote to recognize Croatia as an independent state on the grounds that the right to self-determination overruled all other criteria.”

“In order to maintain its own unity, the EC sacrificed the unity of Yugoslavia, and with it, the stability of the Balkans,” Carr wrote.

This was more than merely the EC trying to preserve unity. In reality, it was a stunning example of Germany bullying its own way and *forcing the rest of Europe to fall in step.*

“Germany had won round one,” Carr continued. “Shortly after, Germany won round two when Bosnia-Herzegovina was



SCENE OF THE CRIMES This map highlights former Yugoslavia, which has since dissolved into several states. Bosnia is colored, and the site of the Srebrenica massacre noted; also highlighted and enclosed in a dotted line is the Serbian-proclaimed Krajinina region within Croatia, where Croats massacred Serbs. (In Bosnia, the northwest area within the dotted lines is the Krajinina region in that country, and the darker shaded area is the Republic of Srpska.)



also recognized, despite EC negotiator Lord Carrington’s advice that such a step would result in a civil war.”

America, too, allowed itself to be led by Germany into pushing Yugoslavia into civil war.

But Germany wasn’t alone. Carr wrote, “The German/Croatian axis and expansionist Islam are the key players in the region, along with *the very real interest and role played by the Vatican and the Croatian Catholic Church.*”

These forces conspired to cause a war in Yugoslavia so Germany could regain its influence in the Balkans.

Here’s how Karadzic made his case in a recent interview for *Politics First*: “The Germans wanted to take revenge on Yugoslavia for its involvement in World Wars I and II on the side of the anti-German coalition; to support their allies in Slovenia and Croatia as well as the Bosnian Muslims; and

to secure strategic access for themselves through Slovenia and Croatia to the Adriatic Sea, *as it had a preference for a group of small countries in the European Union instead of a big one*” (May 2011).

That is the reality behind the wildly uneven treatment the Croats and Serbs received from the rest of the world. It had its genesis in the German-Vatican plot to smash Yugoslavia to pieces, particularly to eliminate the Serbian threat that created problems in the previous world wars!

The Germans aggressively backed Serbia’s enemies. In 1996, the German TV program *Monitor* unearthed evidence of German intelligence agents smuggling weapons to the Bosnian Muslims. Operating under the guise of neutral EU monitors, Germany smuggled arms to Serbia’s enemies. Other monitors confirmed that German EU monitors made these shipments through Croatia and Bosnia.

On Feb. 27, 1997, *Monitor* reported that

the MIG-21 airplanes used by the Croatian Air Force “demonstrably came from Germany, were given a complete overhaul in the former Soviet Union and delivered to Croatia via Hungary.” The program also stated, “Combat helicopters, tanks, artillery—many of the weapons that decided the outcome of the war—had been delivered with the help of the BND [Germany’s Federal Intelligence Service], according to information of the American Defense Intelligence Service (DIA). This is also confirmed by the internationally acknowledged military expert Paul Beaver.”

The Aug. 11-25, 1995, issue of *Intelligence Digest* stated that German pilots trained the Croatian Air Force.

The February 1997 *Monitor* program also stated, “Without the German intelligence service, the smuggling could not have been accomplished.” The allegations caused an uproar in the German parliament, but as Britain’s *Telegraph* reported, “For many German politicians, however, the nub of the problem may not be the BND’s operations at all—rather that it appears to have been caught out” (April 20, 1997).

Crucially, German and U.S. help won the Croats the media war. Little Croatia and Bosnia could not have won over the entire Western media without help. Sanctions placed on Yugoslavia meant it was unable to hire Western PR firms. Serbia’s enemies were able to get their message out unopposed.

“The media,” Karadzic stated, “did more damage to us than NATO bombs.”

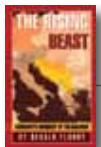
Just the Beginning

As horrific as the events in the Balkans were, they are just the start of an even bigger, far worse conflict. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his booklet *The Rising Beast—Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*, “Yugoslavia is in fact the first victim of World War III.”

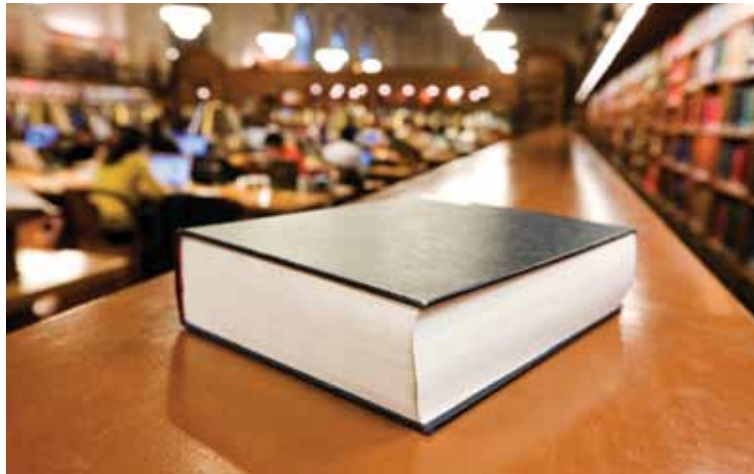
“The first blow of World War III has already been struck,” he writes. “That is because this same nation—Germany—will continue this aggressive war spirit until the whole world is dragged into a nuclear World War III! So says history and Bible prophecy.”

War means events like the Krajina ethnic cleansing, and Srebrenica. As Churchill described, war means man unleashes all the destructive forces he has available. Today, man has more destructive power at his fingertips than ever before.

The truth is that Bosnia is already a victim of World War III. ■



For a detailed account of Germany’s war, and Britain and America’s betrayal of their historic allies the Serbs, request our free booklet ***The Rising Beast—Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans.***



The Best Seller Nobody Reads

Buying it is all the rage. Using it ... well, that's another matter. **BY DENNIS LEAP**

"SODOM AND GOMORRAH were husband and wife." When graduating high school seniors were quizzed about the Bible, this was the answer a large number of them chose.

Less than half of all adult Americans can name the first book of the Bible or the four Gospels of the New Testament. Almost two thirds of Americans can't name at least five of the Ten Commandments. One in 10 adults who participated in a Bible literacy poll believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife.

All of these incredible facts are mentioned by Timothy Beal in his book *The Rise and Fall of the Bible*, published earlier this year. The sad fact is, biblical literacy is at an all-time low. In fact, it may be *low to zip*, as Beal points out in his book.

There is a real paradox here. The Bible is a top-selling book in Western society, especially in the United States. The Bible is big business. Bible publishing is a highly competitive and lucrative industry. Few realize that Bible publishing companies are not necessarily owned by the deeply religious. Zondervan, which sells over 500 different kinds of Bibles, was purchased in 1988 by HarperCollins, a part of Rupert Murdoch's media empire News Corporation.

Bible sales figures are a highly guarded secret, but numbers that are available are interesting to study. "Reliable industry sources estimate that 2007 saw about 25 million Bibles sold, generating revenues of about \$770 million in the United States alone," Beal

states. "That was an increase of more than 26 percent since 2005, which saw sales of about \$609 million Even during the high point of the economic crisis in late 2008, when other book sales were hurting badly, Bible sales continued to boom, with an estimated \$823.5 million that year." Beal reports that Bible sales remain high during times of war and financial crisis, which means that the most current sales figures likely are still soaring.

Yet, the paradox doesn't stop here.

The Book to Buy

Twenty years ago, a Gallup poll reported that only 35 percent of Americans believed that "the Bible was totally accurate in all of its teachings." This was a saddening but not surprising report at the time: Americans' close relationship with the Bible had been in decline for decades. But more recent polling data from the Barna Group reveals that now, about *half* of Americans agree with that statement.

At the same time, a recent Gallup poll found 65 percent of Americans believe the Bible "answers all or most of the basic questions of life." Is it possible that reverence for the Bible is up from 1991? Some experts think so. Yet the pervasive Bible illiteracy within all age groups in the U.S. causes religious theorists to question what the polls are actually saying.

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life has found that 78 percent of Americans say the Bible is the "Word of God," and of those, almost half believe "it is to be taken literally, word for word."

Considering all this poll data, Timothy Beal concludes: "The Bible appears to be the most revered book never read." That is a truly sad bit of humor.

So why do people buy Bibles if they are not going to read them? The fact that Rupert Murdoch's media empire owns Zondervan should give us a clue.

In May, *Time* ran a short article in its "Culture" section on books congratulating the King James Bible for reaching its 400th anniversary. Rather than relating the history of the book, the article focused on who has used or is using a King James Bible, including King James, Abraham Lincoln, Barack Obama, Prince William and Kate Middleton.

A sidebar discussed the KJV's offshoots, or *progeny*. *The Green Bible*, for example, released in 2008, is "Published on recycled paper with soy-based ink. Instead of Jesus's words appearing in red, verses on caring for the earth are highlighted in soothing green." The sidebar also featured *The One-Minute Bible*, for really busy people, and *The Extreme Teen Bible*, for teens who love living on the edge.

Are you beginning to understand? Bibles are big business. Costly market surveys are conducted regularly to uncover what causes a person to buy a Bible. Why? We are a nation of consumers. If the figures on Bible literacy are any indication, we can safely assume that many people buy Bibles simply because it is the thing to do.

The stark reality is that just having a Bible doesn't do a thing for anybody. Many people refer to the KJV as a cultural icon.

Unfortunately, what that actually means for most people is that the Bible has become a religious statue or symbol—some leather-covered god gathering dust on a shelf.

The Misunderstood Book

Think about and consider your own approach to reading and studying the Bible. It is *the* unique book. There is no other book like it on Earth. The Apostle Paul wrote: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). It is a living, active book. You must interact with it to get true value out of owning one.

Yet the Bible cannot be read like any other book. It is this fact that gives people so much difficulty. You cannot read the Bible from beginning to end and come to an understanding of it. A close friend once said to me, “I’ve read and studied the Bible for hours and I cannot understand it, so what makes you think you can?” This is the typical complaint of the majority of people who own a Bible. People have been told they should read it to be spiritual. They have heard emotional-sounding talk about how inspiring Bible reading and studying can be. However, most have not been taught what is recorded on its pages or how to read it. Then, after buying several versions thinking that will help their understanding, many frustratingly put their Bibles (most American homes have more than one) permanently on their bookshelf and attempt to live life without the Bible.

Your experience with the Bible can be very different.

In his groundbreaking book *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W. Armstrong, one of the most important Bible educators of our time, wrote: “I found the Bible to be a coded book, with answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity I learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way.” If you would like to receive a copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, one will be sent to you free upon request.

A Book to Be Obeyed

Herbert Armstrong taught that the Bible is approximately divided into thirds: history, prophecy and religious instruction.

Its *history* is primarily that of one nation—Israel—from its earliest beginnings with the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with his 12 sons. In the Old Testament, the Bible charts the course of the 12 tribes as they journey through time—from

their national slavery in Egypt through Joshua settling them in the Promised Land. We are given details of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah from their golden years with David and Solomon to their demise and captivity. The New Testament gives us the history of Judah under the Roman conquest at the time of Christ.

Bible *prophecy* primarily concerns itself with the end-time events involving the modern nations of Israel and the Gentile nations that come in contact with Israel culminating with Jesus Christ’s Second Coming. Request your free copy of the book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a full explanation of the identity of the modern nations of Israel.

The Bible’s *religious instruction* is a thorough listing of the God-inspired doctrines. It provides instruction for daily living. It

For most people, the Bible has become a religious statue or symbol—some leather-covered god gathering dust on a shelf.

explains the biblical way of salvation. It provides wisdom to meet life’s challenges. It emphasizes God’s incredible law codified in the Ten Commandments.

Basically the Bible’s history and prophecy reveal the painful outcome of disobedience to God’s laws. Only those people willing to listen to, learn from and *obey* God can understand the Bible. The Bible states, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments” (Psalm 111:10). Concerning unlocking the code of the Bible, Herbert Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*, “Then the picture becomes crystal clear to the one willing to believe what God our Creator says.”

Understanding the Bible is the most incredible blessing bestowed on those willing to read, study and do what the Bible says.

Beware False Teachers

One disheartening fact that all new Bible students must confront is that modern Christianity teaches doctrines that are not founded on the Bible. Mr. Armstrong experienced this phenomenon, and so have all God’s people in this end time. Once you come to know the Bible and how its truths are pieced together, it becomes clear that *the Bible explains itself*. The full explanation of a Bible topic comes by putting *all* the scriptures on a subject together. Often the verses on one subject are scattered throughout the Bible. God has designed the Bible so it takes a lifetime of real work to come to understand its invaluable treasure chest of knowledge.

So many sincere—but deceived—teachers have misled millions by limiting religious instruction on a subject to one or two verses. That kind of misuse of the Bible leads to spiritual destruction.

Understand, it is not our intention to point fingers at any human being. The real culprit is Satan the devil. This once awesome and righteous angel came to hate God, God’s truth and the awesome plan God has for all mankind. It is his ardent desire to spiritually destroy you. How? Our adversary has set out to take eternal life away from every man, woman and child *through religion*.

The devil began this effort with Eve by talking to her directly. However, today, he has organized his own brand of Christianity, leading it with his own ministers (2 Corinthians 11:13)—a carefully thought-out and well-planned counterfeit of God’s Church.

The Bible reveals that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (verse 14). He has successfully palmed himself off as God, making himself appear to be God to this whole world (2 Corinthians 4:4). This being is so crafty and powerful he has (because God has allowed it for His own purpose) been able to deceive the entire world (Revelation 12:9). How has he done this? Paul tells us that he “hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Satan wants unsuspecting humans to have religion—just not God’s way! This is the only valid explanation for the widespread confusion being broadcast from the world’s various religions. And it is the only logical explanation for the huge doctrinal division within modern Christianity.

Be warned. Satan knows Scripture, and he will twist it to trip you up. Matthew 4 shows that he tried that trick on Jesus Christ, and he will work that same way against us. The Bible must become your only source of doctrine. Yes, you will need someone to teach you from the Bible, which puts the pressure on you to find the men God has specially trained to teach for Him. Your salvation depends upon it!

Read the Book

Jesus Christ came into a world of religious confusion much like our own. He conquered that world with the truth taken only from the Bible. When confronted with doctrinal controversy, Jesus Christ

See **BEST SELLER** page 36 ►



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

Is the Old Testament Reliable?

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

MANY CHRISTIANS THINK THE OLD TESTAMENT is not an integral part of the Holy Scriptures. They think it is only a collection of Jewish stories, with varying degrees of historical accuracy. Many today believe that some major events described in the Old Testament cannot be literally true.

Notice, however, these words from the *New Testament*: “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God . . .*” (2 Timothy 3:16). The word *inspiration* in the Greek means *God-breathed*. In other words, God *personally* coordinated the Bible’s development and directly inspired its writing. The Bible—*all* of it—is the *authoritative* Word of God in print.

Let’s consider the authority of the Old Testament—from a biblical and archeological perspective.

Jesus Confirms the Old Testament

Many Christians today do not think the Old Testament is historical fact. What did Jesus think?

1. What fundamental truth did Jesus tell us about Himself? John 14:6. Where are the prophecies about His life found? John 5:39.

COMMENT: Notice that Jesus pointed to “the scriptures.” The only sacred writings that the Jews possessed that foretold the coming of the Messiah were the books of the Old Testament. Here, Jesus validates them as *Scripture*. He also cited the Old Testament as a *true* and *reliable* source of history.

2. Did Christ suppose that the first humans evolved, or did He acknowledge that Adam and Eve were created? Matthew 19:4. Compare Genesis 1:27; 5:2.

3. Did Jesus mention Adam and Eve’s son Abel? Matthew 23:35.

COMMENT: Jesus not only confirmed Abel’s existence, but He referred to his righteousness as well. Also discussed in this verse is the murder of Zechariah, son of Barachias (or Berechiah, as the New King James Version renders it). Undoubtedly, this refers to the prophet of the Old Testament, whose father was Berechiah (Zechariah 1:1).

4. What about Noah’s ark and the Flood? Is it fact or fiction? Matthew 24:37-39.

COMMENT: Jesus gave *personal testimony* of the Flood! He corroborated its history, alluded to its causes and reiterated the universal death—except for Noah and his family—that occurred.

5. Is the account of Sodom and Gomorrah a fable—or truth? Luke 17:28-29, 32.

COMMENT: Again, we have Jesus’s personal testimony of the *veracity* of Old Testament history, exactly

as recorded in the book of Genesis (chapter 19).

6. Did Jesus verify that King David lived? Matthew 12:3. Did He identify King Solomon too? Verse 42.

COMMENT: These scriptures prove that Jesus Christ believed and accepted the testimony of the Old Testament as absolutely authoritative!

The New Testament refers to the Old Testament about 250 times. We cannot accept the New Testament without recognizing the authority and accuracy of the Old!

Archeology Backs Up the Old Testament

In addition to the New Testament declaration of the reliability of the Old Testament, the relatively new science of archeology has confirmed *without question* the historical accuracy of the Bible. Solid, documented evidence apart from the Bible confirms events and persons that at one time were known *only* from Scripture. Let’s look at just a few discoveries.

The Behistun Inscription dates back to 516 B.C. and is an account of Darius the Great’s assumption of the Persian throne. It was written in cuneiform in three languages. The deciphering of this trilingual inscription in the 19th century was a tremendous breakthrough because it enabled thousands of other cuneiform writings of many Middle Eastern cultures to be translated—for example, the tablets at the ruins of Nineveh, Shalmaneser’s Black Obelisk, Sennacherib’s Prism and the epic poems of Gilgamesh and Enuma Elish. (These poems contain accounts of creation, the tower of Babel and the Flood that closely parallel the Bible.) The unlocking of the Behistun Inscription opened the door for archeology to confirm biblical history many times over!

Bible critics had long scoffed at references in the Bible to a people called the Hittites (Genesis 15:20; Exodus 3:8, 17; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 1:4; Judges 1:26 and elsewhere). Their opinion was that the Hittites were simply one of the many mythical peoples concocted by writers of the Bible, or at best, a small and unimportant tribe.

But the critics were wrong. Archeological discoveries toward the end of the 19th century of Hittite monuments at Carchemish on the Euphrates River in Syria, and later, in 1906, of thousands of Hittite documents in Turkey, revealed a wealth of information about Hittite history and culture. The Hittites were once a dominant people, exercising control over Syria and parts of Palestine.

Some critics also doubted that the Babylonian captivity of Judah actually occurred in spite of specific details given in 2 Kings 24-25. Once again, they were

proved wrong! Twenty-one pottery fragments inscribed in the ancient Hebrew script were unearthed between 1935 and 1938 at a site thought to be ancient Lachish—one of the cities besieged by the king of Babylon at the same time as the siege of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 34:7). Called the *Lachish Ostraca*, or Lachish Letters, they were written during the very time of the Babylonian siege. Some of them were exchanges between the city's military commander and an outlying observation post, vividly picturing the final days of Judah's desperate struggle against Babylon!

In 1974 and 1977, Italian archeologists found approximately 17,000 cuneiform tablets and fragments at the site of ancient Ebla in northern Syria. The inscriptions on these artifacts date them prior to the 24th-century B.C. Noachian Flood. Similar finds were uncovered in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Many critics ridiculed the idea that Moses could have written the first five books of the Old Testament, saying that writing was unknown at that time. The Ebla tablets and other pre-Flood inscriptions prove otherwise. Writing was common *centuries* before Moses!

More recently, in August 2005, workers repairing a sewage-pipe break in Old Jerusalem uncovered the Pool of Siloam, mentioned in John 9:1-11. "Scholars have said that there wasn't a Pool of Siloam and that John was using a religious conceit" to make a point, New Testament scholar James H. Charlesworth of the Princeton Theological Seminary said. "Now, we have found the Pool of Siloam ... exactly where John said it was." A Gospel that was thought to be "pure theology is now shown to be grounded in history," he said (*Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 9, 2005). Many of the scholars were wrong—again. The Bible is accurate—always!

The same year, archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar unearthed King David's palace. The Bible says the king of Tyre built David a palace after he had conquered the Jebusite fortress and turned it into the City of David—or Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:11). "But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the [strong]hold"—or, the fortress (verse 17). After reading this, Dr. Mazar wondered, "Down from where? Presumably from where he lived, his palace" (*New York Times*, Aug. 5, 2005). So she started digging immediately north of the City of David, right at the top of Mount Zion. And after just one season of digging, she discovered a massive wall, up to 10 feet wide in some places, and running 100 feet in length, east to west. Subsequent discoveries within the palace area have added to the proof that the structure is King David's palace.

Skeptical of the Bible's account, archeologists have long debated "to what extent Jerusalem was an important city or even a city in the time of David and Samuel" (*Times*, op. cit.). Some scholars suggest that King David and Solomon were nothing more than petty tribal chieftains who ruled over an area comprising little more than a few scattered rural clans. The massive structure found by Dr. Mazar refutes that view!

Most recently, Dr. Mazar discovered King Solomon's wall, mentioned in 1 Kings 3:1. The wall not only confirms the presence of Solomon in Jerusalem, it confirms the

biblical narrative of Israel as a large and advanced kingdom (article, page 10).

There are literally *hundreds* more archeological discoveries that corroborate Bible history. In his book *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, Gleason Archer Jr. quotes author John Elder as saying, "Little by little, one city after another, one civilization after another, one culture after another whose memories were enshrined only in the Bible, were restored to their proper places in ancient history by the studies of archaeologists Contemporary records of biblical events have been unearthed and the uniqueness of the biblical revelation has been emphasized *Nowhere has archaeological discovery refuted the Bible as history*" (emphasis added).

You can count on the Old Testament to be accurate and true!

Old Testament Important for Christians Today

We have seen evidence both from the New Testament and from modern archaeology that verifies the Old Testament accounts. But *why* did God preserve the Old Testament? What importance does it have for us today?

1. Did God personally address the nation of Israel and reveal His law to it? Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-4. Is the law binding today? Matthew 5:17-20; 1 John 3:22.

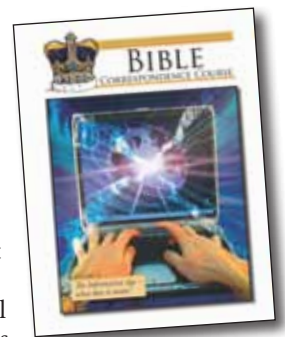
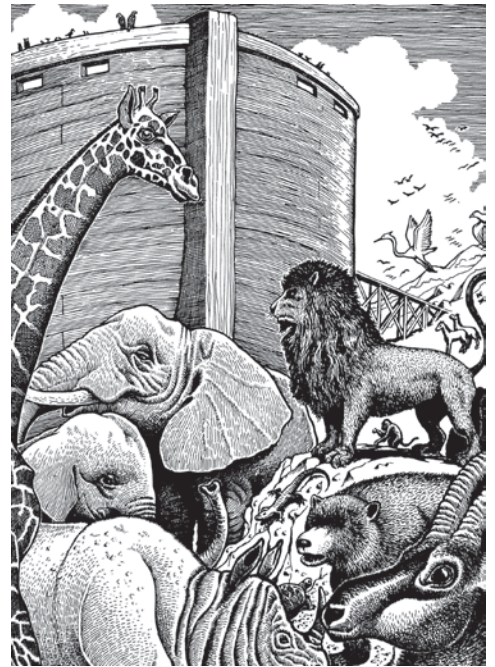
COMMENT: Christians are to be "doers of the law" (Romans 2:13; see also James 1:22). The Ten Commandments spoken at Mount Sinai are binding today in both the letter and spiritual intent. The Old Testament preserves God's law, as well as many other principles and judgments that Christians should still live by today.

2. Why else was the history of ancient Israel preserved in the Old Testament? 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4.

COMMENT: We are the people living in the final throes of man's civilization! God preserved the history of ancient Israel's rebellion "for *our* admonition" so we would learn lessons from it and not *repeat* the same mistakes. Only the Bible can teach us those lessons.

3. What did the Apostle Paul tell us about the Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:15-16.

COMMENT: *All Scripture*, Paul wrote, was inspired by God or, more correctly, "God-breathed." When he recorded these words, the only "Scriptures" in existence were the Old Testament. The New Testament was not completed. Paul taught that *all Scripture* is to be used to establish doctrine, correct false beliefs or errant behavior, and instruct and train in righteousness! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.



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Who Are the Slavs?

The Russians are identified in the Bible as descendants of Meshech and Tubal, and the majority of them are Slavic. But what about the Slavs of Eastern and Central Europe? The answer illuminates a crucial end-time prophecy. **BY DAVID VEJIL**

EASTERN EUROPE IS ONE OF THE most dangerous geopolitical crossroads on the globe. Since the times of the Roman Empire, civilizations and empires have risen and fallen because of the battles waged on the strip of land between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black seas.

The Roman Empire succumbed to Germanic invasions from this territory in the A.D. 400s. The Germanic kingdoms themselves were then overrun by hordes from the east, such as the Huns and Mongols. Eventually Roman Catholic Habsburg Austria gained power, but it was soon threatened by the Muslim Ottoman Turks from the south. For centuries, the Turks extended northwest from the Balkans until their decisive defeat in Vienna in 1683. Then Orthodox Russia expanded from the east, and for more than two centuries all three empires battled it out in Eastern Europe. Catholic met Muslim met Orthodox.

Even after the most destructive wars ever—World Wars I and II—the main battleground between the Soviet Union and the West was still considered to be Eastern Europe, though war never did break out.

Who are the people that live in this highly volatile area? Today they are called the Slavs. They comprise the largest ethnic body in Europe.

What does biblical prophecy say will happen to them?

In the last article in this series, the Russian people were identified by their biblical ancestors, Meshech and Tubal. The Russians are a multiethnic people, and the Slavs comprise their greatest ethnicity. So, if the majority of the Russians are Slavic, and the majority of people inhabiting Eastern and Central Europe are Slavic as well, why aren't all these people identified by the same biblical names?

The answer lies in a remarkable history recorded by ancient historians.

today reject the biblical record, they remain uncertain regarding the origins of the Slavic people.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, for example, records that the original homeland of the Slavs “was Asia, from which they migrated in the third or second millennium BCE TO POPULATE PARTS OF EASTERN EUROPE” (Online Edition, emphasis added throughout). While there was an early settlement of Slavic people in Eastern Europe, according to the encyclopedia, it wasn't until the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. that the greater migration of Slavs came. These people “proceeded in the Germans' wake westward into the country between the Oder and the Elbe-Saale line, southward into Bohemia, Moravia,

Only when the biblical narrative is accepted can one connect the dots and understand: These large populations that spring up in Eastern Europe are merely continuations of various migrations of people that started in the Middle East centuries before!

Hungary, and the Balkans, and northward along the upper Dnieper River” (ibid).

This concise history of the origins of the Slavic people is correct in the overall direction of their migration. It doesn't explain, however, from what part of Asia the migration began, and it dates the appearance of the Slavic people later than what was once known.

The missing pieces and proper dating can be put together through the use of ancient Greek and Roman sources. The story of the Slavs' migration starts in *the Middle East!*

For a few generations after the Noachian Flood, the Middle East contained all families of the Earth. Eventually, though, many of these families—after having grown considerably in population—migrated out of the area. Many of

these peoples are little mentioned in the Bible and in some cases were never heard of again, such as the family of Tiras.

Other nations remained in the Middle East much longer, but then, after periods of upheaval, left in waves of large migrations. Many of those nations, including the Israelites and Assyrians, trekked to distant lands. These larger and later migrations are typically rejected by scholars, who prefer to believe these biblical peoples have remained in the Middle East to this day. Yet at the same time—as the *Encyclopedia Britannica* shows—large populations mysteriously pop up in different parts of the world at later times. But certainly these populations couldn't just spontaneously pop into existence!

Only when the biblical narrative is accepted can one connect the dots and understand: These large populations that spring up in Eastern Europe are merely continuations of various migrations of people that started in the Middle East centuries before!

The history of the Slavic people demonstrates this pattern. The story begins in Asia as the encyclopedia states—specifically in the Middle East region of the Asian continent.

They Come From the Middle East

The greatest periods of upheaval in the Middle East, and therefore the start of many long migrations, were typically a result of the destruction of one empire and the start of a new one. For example, the Assyrian Empire established itself by ruthlessly conquering neighboring people and deporting them to other areas of its territory. It collapsed in 612 B.C. at the hands of a coalition of nations led by the Chaldeans and an Iranian people called the Medes, descendants of the biblical patriarch Madai. The Chaldeans set up an empire in Mesopotamia, while the Medes continued to rule the territory of modern-day Iran and the areas surrounding the Caspian Sea.



The Medes ruled their area in a loose confederation with neighboring people, most notably the Persians. In 550 B.C., Cyrus led the Persians, another Iranian people, in revolt against the Medes. After bringing their neighboring Medes under Persian rule, Cyrus conquered the Chaldean Empire and Asia Minor, establishing the Persian Empire—sometimes called the Medo-Persian Empire after the close federation between the two tribes.

At the establishment of the Persian Empire, another period of migration began of people moving from the Middle East into Europe. Among them were the Israelites, the Assyrians and the Medes.

The Medes began sending colonies of people into Europe shortly after the Persians gained power.

In the 400s B.C., Greek geographer Herodotus recorded much of what was known of the people within and surrounding Greece. Of those living in Eastern Europe and southern Russia at the time, he described a specific tribe dressed like the Medes that dwelled east all the way to the Danube—a people whose “borders reach down almost to the Eneti upon the Adriatic Sea, and they call themselves *colonists of the Medes*.”

Roman geographer Pliny confirms what Herodotus recorded. He wrote in the first century A.D. of the people who lived in what is now modern-day Ukraine: “We then come to the river Tanais [River Don], which discharges itself into the sea by two mouths, and the banks of which are inhabited by the Sarmatæ, the descendants of the Medi.”

So Roman and Greek historians record that the descendants of the Medes migrated out of Asia from what is now Iran into Europe—settling all over Eastern Europe, from modern-day Ukraine all the way to the Balkans! At Pliny’s time, the Medes began to be called *Sarmatians*.

Encyclopedia Britannica also recognizes the Sarmatians to be a people of Iranian stock. So the descendants of the Medes, a dominant Iranian tribe, featured prominently in the Sarmatian tribes.

The Medes are found in end-time prophecies in Jeremiah 25:25 and Isaiah 21. In both instances, they are spoken of alongside another Iranian people, the Elamites.

Clearly then, the Medes were not the only Iranian people found migrating from the Middle East into Europe.

The Elamites

The ancient Elamites dwelled east of Babylon in southern Mesopotamia, in modern-day Iran. According to Jewish historian Josephus, it was from the Elamites that the Persians originated. The Elamites were closely associated with the Medes and were found in the mountains of Greater Media—the northern region of Iran.

Genesis 14:1 shows that the Elamites already had a history of moving toward Europe more than a thousand years earlier, when they had conquered Asia Minor in a confederation led by Assyria. From there, a colony had moved further northwest

into the Balkans, where they were called by the exact same name by the Greeks.

Remarkably, the Elamites can be found in Greek histories in Eastern Europe, specifically in the Balkans! The Greeks observed a tribe of people living in the Balkans to the north of them called the *Elimaiei*. These people were originally an independent kingdom, but they were later conquered by the Macedonians in the fourth century B.C.

This reference in history provides the origins of the many tribes that migrated into Eastern Europe that were later called *Slavs*. The word *Elimaiei* was the same Greek name for the land near Babylon called “Elam.”

It is clear that many of the Slavs today are the descendants of Elam and the Medes.

Medes and Elamites Now in Europe!

So tribes of Elamites and Medes were among the Sarmatians who migrated into Europe. The Sarmatians were found in southern European Russia all the way to the Balkans as far back as Herodotus’s time, but the great migration of the Sarmatian people into the area did not begin until the start of the third century B.C., two centuries later.

By the first century A.D., the Romans were becoming more familiar with the people of Eastern Europe, and the Sarmatian people were called by specific tribal names such as the Venedi (or Veneti), Sclaveni and Antes. Roman historian Tacitus records the strong link between the Slavic tribe Venedi and the Sarmatians, recording that “the Venedians are a counterpart to the Sarmatians” and lived in similar ways.

These tribes were later grouped together as *Slavs* in the sixth century A.D., when they finally came into prominence in Eastern Europe after the Huns were defeated. Modern scholarship will say how the Slavs “suddenly” appeared and conquered Eastern Europe, but the previously quoted sources show that they were living in Europe long before under different names. It was only after the Romans, Germans and Huns were pushed back that the Slavs were finally able to come to power.

The start of the great Sarmatian migration coincides with an important date in history that reveals the impetus behind the movement of people at this time. That date was the destruction of the Persian Empire in 331 B.C. Just three decades later,

the allied people of the Persians—most prominently the Medes and Elamites but most likely other people as well—appear north of the Black Sea in great numbers as the Sarmatians and, later, as the Slavs.

Hard to Swallow?

Does this history seem hard to swallow?

Even Herodotus found it difficult. When talking of Medes' migration into Eastern Europe, he wrote, "[T]hey call themselves colonists of the Medes, but how they can be colonists of the Medes I for my part cannot imagine. Still nothing is impossible in the long lapse of ages." George Rawlinson, an expert on ancient history and the translator of Herodotus's work used in this series, commented that perhaps they "retained a better recollection than other European tribes of their migrations westward."

Yes, these people did have a better memory of where they came from. And as a result, we know the origins of the Slavic people!

There are many scholars who do recognize and assert the Iranian roots of the Slavic people, even though it is not generally accepted. A scholarly Croatian society called ZDPH held a conference presenting the research results of these scholars in 1998. Among the research was genetic evidence showing that in 75 percent of cases, Croats were of Iranian origin. Results also included evidence of ancient Croatian names in an ancient stone inscription of Darius and in Greek inscriptions around the Sea of Azov dating to the second and third century B.C., precisely the time period the archeological record shows the great migration of the Sarmatians occurred.

Other similarities are obvious. For example, one of the major rivers that ran through Elam was called *Croatis*, virtually the same term used for the Slavic people called Croats! Moreover, "the name of the Croatian capital, Zagreb, is related to the Zagros mountain range of Iran. The Dinara mountains in Dalmatia and the dinar currency may be connected to Mount Dinar (Dene) of Iran. The name Serbia is similar to the Seropi or Surappi River in Elam," according to Dr. Samar Abbas (*Jat Jyoti*, November 2003). There was also a strong Iranian influence in the religion of the Slavs before they converted to Christianity.

These similarities don't just apply to the Croats but other Slavic people as well, as shown by the ancient histories

recorded by the Greeks and Romans.

There can only be one conclusion: The ancient Elamites, Medes and other associated Iranian people migrated from the Middle East into Europe, where they became known first as Sarmatians and then Slavs!

The Slavs moved into Europe from modern-day Iran through the Caucasus, the same territory the descendants of Meshech and Tubal had migrated and were continuing to migrate through. Greek geographer Strabo wrote that the Sarmatians dwelled in an area which extended "south as far as the Caucasian Mountains," which joined the Moschian Mountains. The "plain of the Iberians is inhabited by people who ... dress after both the Armenian and the Median fashion," living like "the Sarmatians, of whom they are both neighbors and kinsmen," he wrote.

As covered in a previous article, the descendants of Meshech and Tubal are now known as the Russians. Strabo shows the strong connection between the Russians and the other Slavic people as these people all migrated through the same areas and around the same times. This is why the general classification of Slav includes nearly all the people of Eastern Europe, including those in the Balkans, Russia, Poland and Ukraine.

Eastern Europe will soon once again become a bloody battlefield between world powers.

The Slavic people spread east to the Ural Mountains and west all the way to the Adriatic Sea and north of the Danube River in Eastern Europe, following the advanced colonies of their people that had migrated to the same locations years before.

Though all labeled Slavic, these peoples included several distinctly different groups. They created their own nations and ethnic types based largely on where they finally settled and with whom.

It is clear from the histories shown that the Ukrainian ethnic type—once known as the Little Russians but classified with the Eastern Slav group today—descended from the Medes. Those Slavs further west in the Balkans north to Poland—classified as South and West Slavs—have a stronger ancestry from Elam and possibly other Iranian tribes from the Middle East.

The Slavs in Prophecy

The proximity and close association of the descendants of these two peoples was

prophesied in Isaiah 21:2, where they are allied together and attack the last resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, the German-led European Union. When you combine this prophecy with the one in Revelation 17, which shows that the EU will contract from its current 27 members to 10 national groupings, it becomes very clear that some Eastern European nations will not be in the Union!

Interestingly, in this prophecy as well as the one found in Jeremiah 25:25, the *Persians* are nowhere to be found. If the Medes and Elamites were still in modern-day Iran as many believe, surely the Persians would have been listed in this prophecy as well. However, as this prophecy shows, the Elamites and Medes migrated out of Iran, while the Persians remained. That is why Persia is not associated with them in biblical prophecy.

Elam is also mentioned by itself in a prophecy in Ezekiel 32. This chapter contains end-time prophecies for several nations. Interestingly, Elam is spoken of in order between Germany (the modern-day Assyrians) and Russia (modern-day Meshech and Tubal). This is perhaps another biblical confirmation of where to find the descendants of Elam today: stuck between the Germans and the Russians. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for proof that the Germans are the modern-day Assyrians.)

And so the most numerous ethnic and linguistic body of peoples in all Europe are divided between east and west—with the East Slavs, Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians in one camp, and Europe in the other. Most of the rest of the Slavic people look to a German-led Europe for their security.

Historically, the state of these nations doesn't rest in their own hands, but rather depends on what Russia and Germany decide to do. World Wars I and II both played out on these nations' territories, leaving much of their land destroyed and their populations brutalized.

Today, Russia has regained much of the stature it lost when the Soviet Union fell, and Germany is addressing global affairs on its own terms. Given the return to power of both nations, those who live in between the two juggernauts need to know, now more than ever, what the Bible prophecies will happen next. Will history repeat itself?

The answer is yes! Eastern Europe will soon once again become a bloody battlefield between these world powers! These powers will once again clash with warfare more fierce and terrible than the previous world wars combined!





Six Days Shall You Labor

Are you overlooking an important part of the Fourth Commandment?

ONE WAY CHRISTIANS KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY IS BY resting on the seventh day of the week (Exodus 20:8). But what are we resting from? Notice the other half of the Fourth Commandment: “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work” (verse 9). God **COMMANDS** that we labor and do all our work in six days! This is not a suggestion, it is a command—and it’s just as important as the Sabbath half of the command. In fact, the harder we work, the more we will get out of the Sabbath.

God is a creator who **WORKS** for a living, and His purpose is to reproduce Himself through man. As God’s children, we must be willing to labor and work like the Father does. Lesson 55 of the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* says, “The spirit or intent of this law shows that a man is normally expected to keep busily engaged in gainful work during the first six days of the week.”

When Adam was first created, God placed him in the Garden of Eden and commanded him “to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). “Dress it” here also means to labor, to work; by implication, it means to serve as a bondman or to be a *slave* of labor.

In order for Adam to make bread, he had to till the ground, plant the seeds, and labor to bring them to harvest. After the harvest, there was still the milling, kneading and baking involved to make the bread.

God could have arranged some other, less labor-intensive way—where we were designed to live on air only or by eating the soil, like an earthworm. But He wanted us to **WORK** for our food!

We must remember that there is nothing negative about God’s instruction. God commands men to work, and to work *hard*—but it is not some kind of punishment or sentence.

Submitting to this command actually makes man truly happy and content because it keeps us in a right relationship with God. It keeps us active, working and producing—just like God!

Even when God rained manna from heaven directly into the Israelites’ camp, it wasn’t as easy as picking up bread off the ground and eating it. It came in the form of tiny seeds, and they had to go out and gather it every day, grind it in mills, beat it into dough, and bake it in pans to make cakes (Exodus 16).

They weren’t allowed to store up large quantities and make a bunch of bread all at once; God specifically commanded them to gather a certain amount every day except Friday, when they were to gather enough for the Sabbath day as well (verses 16-19). If they tried to keep it overnight on any other day, the manna would spoil. It was a test commandment, God said, and notice what **PART** of the test they failed: “Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them” (verse 20).

They wanted to make extra so that they wouldn’t have to **WORK** the next day! Failing the test involved their refusal to **WORK** on the *other* six days!

The Bible has about 900 references to employment and work habits. It is God’s **NATURE** to work diligently, and He wants us

to be just like Him. God is a workman who is always on the job. That’s the way He wants us to be, both men and women.

Human nature wants to be lazy, but a true Christian ought to be a diligent, hard worker (1 Timothy 5:8). Hard work is one of the *evidences* of a true Christian! In John 5:17, Christ said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:8, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” A man’s responsibility is to provide for himself—and *especially* for those of his own house. Married women who are not employed outside the home should diligently apply this godly work ethic in the home.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:10 we find the command that if any do not work, they should not eat. Under the inspiration of God, Paul forbids Christians to be slothful (see also Romans 12:11). Paul also said that hard work is the only sure—and godly—way to avoid poverty (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

These scriptures show that it is not God’s will that we give handouts to lazy dropouts or able-bodied persons **WHO WILL NOT WORK**. If there are those who refuse to work, who are indolent and lazy, others are expressly forbidden to give them money or food or any kind of assistance which they otherwise could acquire **ON THEIR OWN** by working.

If you don’t currently have a job, first, realize your primary **JOB IS TO GET A JOB**. Do not be lazy in your search. The correspondence course reads, “Get up early in the morning—consistently—and start out either arranging interviews, or pounding the pavement early every morning, and don’t quit until you’ve put in a full day’s work looking for work!” (op. cit.).

Simply obtaining a job is not where exhibiting godly work ethic ends. As employees, we are responsible to **GOD** to work hard, not just to our physical boss (Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:5-6). A good employee constantly feels pressure from Christ (Colossians 3:23). Verse 24 indicates even the service we give our physical bosses is to be considered as service rendered to God.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 adds, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” That doesn’t say “whatever you are good at” or “whatever you like to do”—it says “whatsoever your hand finds to do . . .” Not being good at something is no excuse for laziness—it actually means you must push yourself harder because of it.

In John 9:4, Christ says, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” Time is short before Christ returns. But instead of that being a hindrance to our work, it ought to prod us to work *harder*!

In Matthew 24:46, Christ says His faithful servants will be the ones who are found **WORKING** and **BUILDING** right up until His arrival! God doesn’t want us to just sit around and wait for His return. He wants us to continue working and building—both physically and spiritually.

That is the **WAY** of a true Christian!

The royal wedding

Thank you for speaking the truth from the Bible so boldly and so clearly (“The Most Inspiring Part of the Royal Wedding,” July). This is inspiring and only a living, loving God can keep this truth alive for His people through millennia.



Kevin—ZIMBABWE

I read your article about the royal wedding and God’s work in it with full amazement (“Did You See God at the Royal Wedding?” July). I agree with you in every sentence that many including the royal family might not believe that the wedding was the reminder of God’s power and His wisdom. And that it sent messages about God’s law and that if we truly obey it there will be no broken marriages. The articles about the royal wedding have truly freshened my faith and given me joy. It is also very motivating to me as a Christian who comes from a predominantly Muslim country, Indonesia, to know there are still people like you who respect the Word of God, and still remind people about His existence even though you know very well those people who live in your modern country do not believe in God anymore. I hope the royal family reads your articles so they are reminded of their role to keep God’s Word in their life.

L. Zai—INDONESIA

What an inspiring and endearing article! We went down to London for the wedding and the atmosphere was wonderful. (We weren’t present in the abbey, of course!) People were smiling at each other and talking in a friendly manner, even though we were strangers to each other and in a major city. I do feel God’s Spirit was present. It is interesting when you mentioned the sun shining as the royal bride arrived. When we attended the Golden Jubilee in 2002, the sun broke through the clouds just as Queen Elizabeth, in her golden coach, passed through the gates of Buckingham Palace onto the Mall. Thank you for such a beautiful article.

Cheryl Shevlane—ENGLAND

What’s wrong with the weather?

If I were the type to briefly glance over the article without paying particularly close attention, I’d have thought you

were talking about Australia! (“Twisters, Floods, Drought—What’s Wrong With the Weather?” July). As horrifying as these weather patterns can be, it’s a little bit “nice” to know that we’re not the only ones. Thanks for explaining so clearly what the experts are at a loss to articulate.

E.M.—AUSTRALIA

Yes—we’ve noticed!

I just want to say you are right (“Have You Noticed? The Nations Are Shaking,” July). I have been observing the news every day recently. The pages of revelation are coming to life every day. Keep up the work. God bless.

Eric R. Beardy—YORK LANDING, MAN.

The nations are certainly being shaken as never before, and there is much more shaking to come. The first four months of 2011 have been unbelievable. I can only imagine what the remainder of the year will bring. Thankfully there is a source that explains it all and talks about the wonderful things to follow all of the turmoil!

Lorraine—UNITED STATES

Wow, thanks for removing the salve out of my eyes. Why is it that the major news agencies that are always in search of the “big story,” haven’t realized that the times that we are living in are vastly different in the measure of evilness and intensity and frequency of global events? The big picture is the big story.

Maria Petruzzi—NEW YORK

The list grows daily! Killer storms are striking at the heartland and the Bible belt of America—destroying church buildings and killing dozens. People wonder why—*why my church? Why are people whom I know and love—who are real good Christians—suffering? Where is God in all of this?* Well, He is shaking the nations like an unhappy father who is trying to get the attention of his children. A parent must first gain the attention of the child before he can train him. Are we letting God get our attention? Do we see ourselves as those unruly children? What does it take? If God is shaking us, should we not look within ourselves and allow ourselves to be corrected by all of God’s Word and stop cherry-picking the scriptures that make us feel good? *Nohopeusa—UNITED STATES*

Lying European leaders

Being an expat of Ireland, it’s been difficult to watch the demise of my old sod (“Lying Wonders,” July). Germany hung the carrot of the “Celtic Tiger” (money and affluence) in front of the Irish nation, and they willingly grabbed it with both hands, along with the Lisbon Treaty, and now they pay the piper. ... Thank God you write the truth so as to educate at least some of the readers. People are so burdened with the financial hardships here that not enough people are paying attention to what is going on right under our very eyes.

Gerry—CALIFORNIA

Thank you for this very accurate analysis of the EU elites. You have it exactly right. Our political and economic leaders, especially on the EU level, are liars and losers. The entire EU is corrupt and rotten. Its leaders have no morals and their Christianity is faked—a counterfeit Christianity which is again only a lie. No wonder that a Jesuit-trained Italian will now become the next president of the European Central Bank. They worship the dragon, and they will reap what they have sown. It is regrettable that we Europeans have to endure and finance this rotten system. But Jesus will return soon and the truth will make us free.

Thomas Pfefferle—GERMANY

I’ll have to read it again

I have read *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and just reading this article has made me want to immerse myself in that book yet again (“Imperial Britain Was a Blessing, Not a Curse,” July). What a beautiful and moving truth! God’s end-time work is truly amazing.

David L. Cintron—NEW YORK

Good, well-written article. Unfortunately we get the leftist version on the history of the British Empire from BBC here in England. White slavery—when thousands of Europeans were captured by Muslim Barbary slave traders between 1620 and 1750—is never mentioned.

Ian Reygan—ENGLAND

I prize your booklets

I have been a long-time follower of the PCG after I read Herbert Armstrong’s masterpiece, *Mystery of the Ages*. The more I see happening, the more I worry about our planet. I have read many of the PCG booklets and they are prized possessions in my library. I grew up Catholic and it has inspired my faith, but the PCG has solidified my faith and gives me the answers I need. Keep up the good work.

Chet Nichols

When Will the World End?

No man knows the day or hour,
but we can know when it is near.

A SENSATIONALIST NEWS STORY SWEEPED THE NATION THIS past spring when preacher Harold Camping proclaimed that May 21 would commence the rapture of true believers and set off the beginning of the end of the world. His followers abandoned their careers and sold all their earthly belongings in preparation, while scoffers held “end of the world” parties as the declared deadline came and went without incident.

According to Camping, “God’s wrath was supposed to begin in New Zealand and then race across the globe, leaving millions of bodies wherever the clock struck 6 p.m.,” the *Los Angeles Times* wrote. “But the hours ticked by, and New Zealand survived. Time zone by time zone, the apocalypse failed to materialize” (May 22).

Camping made a similar prediction in 1994, but it received little publicity and was hardly the media furor that erupted this year. This time, the story headlined newspapers around the globe. Why?

Well, have a look at our world. It’s plagued with wars and rumors of wars. The Middle East is in turmoil, Western nations are in the throes of massive debt crises and the entire globe is being pummeled in an unprecedented wave of natural disasters. “History making” and “record breaking” seem like commonplace phrases these days.

In a world spinning further and further out of control, perhaps the idea of “the end of the world”—or that people would look for a way off this sinking ship—isn’t so crazy after all.

Critics of Mr. Camping have rightfully pointed to Matthew 25:13, where it says we cannot know the exact day or hour of Christ’s return—only the Father knows that. But does this mean we should ignore Bible prophecy altogether and just focus on principles of Christian living, simply because of the failed prediction of a man?

In a world spinning further and further out of control, perhaps the idea of “the end of the world” isn’t so crazy after all.

In Matthew 24:3, Christ’s disciples asked Him for signs of His coming and of the “end of the world”—meaning the end of the age of man’s rule over man. The disciples understood that Jesus was about to leave for heaven. They also knew He would come again, as He promised in John

14:3, to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth, headquartered in Jerusalem. They just didn’t yet know all the details of the events leading up to His return—so they asked Him for signs.

Notice! Jesus didn’t ridicule them for asking about the end of the world, like so many theologians undoubtedly would today. Instead, He gave them specific signs pointing to His return! He warned about widespread religious deception first—people who would come preaching that Jesus is Christ and would deceive many with that message.

“Then if any man shall say unto you, *Lo, here is Christ*, or there; believe it not,” He said in verse 23 of Matthew 24. This statement alone reveals how confused religious leaders are about where Christ is. The Bible warns against blindly accepting what

men say about Christ or His return. *It’s what the Bible says that matters.*

Notice verse 26: “Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Some people today believe Christ is already here—that He returned secretly. Others, like Camping’s followers, believe in a secret rapture, when true believers are whisked away secretly while everyone else is left behind to suffer through the plagues of the Great Tribulation.

Jesus said DON’T YOU BELIEVE IT! When He comes, as it says in Revelation 1:7, every eye shall see Him! Matthew continued, “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (verse 27).

In Mark’s Gospel, we are admonished to learn the parable of the fig tree—in that when it brings forth leaves, you know summer is near. “So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors” (Mark 13:29). No man can know the day or the hour. But we can know—we *will* know—when it is near, if we are prayerfully watching world events.

“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is” (verse 33). *Because we don’t know the day or hour, don’t bother watching.* That’s what men say. God says it’s precisely *because* we don’t know the day or hour that we WATCH and PRAY! *Bring God into your watching*, in other words.

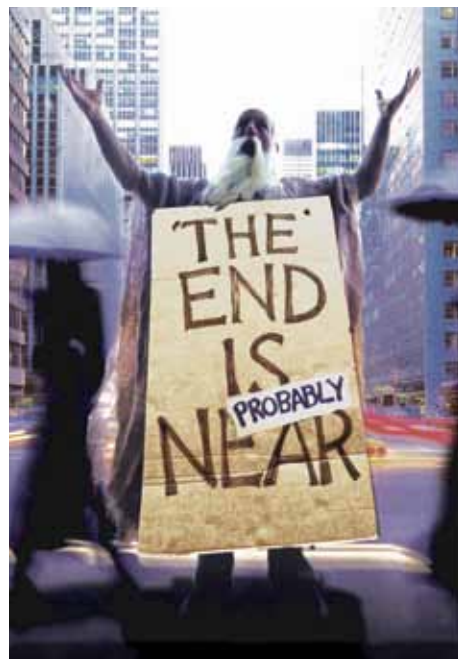
“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping” (verses 35-36). The word *watch* means to be awake, vigilant! It means to pay attention and be active.

How could we do this without a proper grasp of prophetic events? Why would Jesus give so many different signs pointing to His return if He didn’t intend for us to balance our spiritual diets with a healthy portion of biblical prophecy?

No one needs to be confused or in doubt about the chronology of end-time events: It is clearly spelled out for those who are willing to let the Bible interpret itself (2 Peter 1:19-21).

God doesn’t want us to stop doing the work so we can set dates. But neither does He want us to ignore prophecy or say in our hearts, “My lord delayeth his coming” (Matthew 24:48).

The pace of prophetic events marches on inexorably and without delay. Mankind’s experiment with self-government is about over. How do we know? Because the events Jesus *Himself* prophesied to be a sign of the end of the age and His soon-coming return are now coming to pass—exactly as He said they would.



always went to Scripture for the answer. He was known to ask: “Have you not read?” (see Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31).

If you truly want to understand the Bible, you will have to work at it. In fact, there may be times when you will have to wrestle with the Bible to understand it. If you are not living by all of the Ten Commandments, you will have to make some changes in your life. This will not be easy because the majority of people really do not want to know what the Bible says and requires.

Herbert W. Armstrong College Chancellor Gerald Flurry recently discussed the importance of the Bible as the foundation for true education. Using an article from the religion section of the Dec. 27, 1982, *Newsweek*, he mentioned to the 2011 graduating class that historians recognize that the Bible—even more than the Constitution—was the founding document for the establishment of the United States of America. That *Newsweek* article said, “There were times, too, when Bible study was the core of public education and nearly every literate family not only owned a Bible but read it regularly and reverently.” Mr. Flurry then stated: “And so you would think that we would be doing some of that today, but what a change we have seen in our nation today.” Quoting again from the *Newsweek* article, he read: “Despite this publishing phenomenon, the Bible has virtually disappeared from American education.” “It’s virtually disappeared!” Mr. Flurry repeated with emphasis. He then showed that an individual cannot truly be well educated without the Bible. He read a quote by one of America’s greatest presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, who said, “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is better than a college education.”

Herbert W. Armstrong College is a liberal arts college, not just a Bible school. Yet the Bible is the foundation of all of our education whether it be agriculture, art, dance, language, literature, math, music or science. College faculty help our students build their life around reading, studying and knowing the Bible.

Armstrong College is pleased to offer you, without cost, a 37-lesson Bible correspondence course. If you study this course with an open mind and a willingness to change your life where required, the Bible will come alive for you as it never has before. You will understand God’s truth, and the Bible will become a book that you will love to read. ■

TELEVISION LOG

THE KEY OF DAVID

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Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3
Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307
8:00 ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00
ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00
ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan.
239 8:00 ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00
ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH
5:00, Fri

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT
8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT
8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-EI Centro KSWT-
DT 9:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT
8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT
9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

EI Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KESQ/KCWO-DT
9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30,
Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX
6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMDD-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT
9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP
6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-

DT/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri;
WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

West Palm Beach WXPX 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB/WGCW-LP
9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54
6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

Kauai Ho’Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/
Akaku**
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEQ
10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPIF 10:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP
10:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT
8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUI 9:30, Sun; WCPX
5:00, Fri

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2
9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Cedar Rapids KPRX 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFPM 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO
8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA
8:30, Sun

El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT
8:30, Sun

Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

Presque Isle WBPO 9:30, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT
9:30, Sun

Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

Detroit WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL
10:00, Sun

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri

Lansing WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-
DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWEY 8:30, Sun

Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC
8:30, Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/
KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30,
Sun

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun

Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun

Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun

Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun

Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun

Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT
8:30, Sun

Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun

Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri

Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30,
Sun

St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun

Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30,
Sun

Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXL-
DT 10:30, Sun

Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun

Great Falls KRIV-DT 10:30, Sun

Helena KMFT-DT 10:30, Sun

Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun

Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings
KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun

Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun

North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun

Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun

Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT
9:30, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri

Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun

Buffalo WPXI 6:00, Fri; WUTV
10:00, Sun

Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun

New York City WPNX 6:00, Fri;
WLNY 10:00 Sun

Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri

Utica WBU 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun

North Carolina, Durham WRPX
6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri

Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri

Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-
DT 9:30, Sun

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Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBP-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Arillo KVII-DT/KVIIH/KVIIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri

Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVir-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVir-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPKV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPKR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KVOS 8:30, Sun
Spokane KGPK 6:00, Fri
Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun
Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun
Riverton 10:30, Sun

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Mediterranean Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time
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Netherlands Ziggio channel 505 11:00 am, Sun
Poland Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun
Portugal ZonTV Cabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Romania UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun
Spain Hispstat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun
Switzerland Nakoo channel 63; Cablecom channel 151 11:00 am, Sun
United Kingdom Sky: Channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; Freestat channel 210 10:00 am, Sun; Virgin Media channel 613 10:00 am, Sun

Ontario, Toronto

WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WYNY 10:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
 Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
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THE SEVEN GREAT MYSTERIES OF LIFE

DID YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF: WHO AM I? WHAT AM I?
WHY AM I?

Your life is engulfed in mysteries. When you reflect, your very existence is a mystery. Did you simply happen by unintelligent resident earthly forces without meaning or purpose, or were you intelligently designed and created by an all-powerful God of supreme mind for a purpose that also has been hidden in mystery?

Who and what is God? That is a mystery not understood by any religion, not explained by science, untaught by higher education. God reveals Himself in His Word, the Holy Bible, yet almost none has understood it. The Bible itself is the basic mystery that reveals all other mysteries.

If the truth about God is mystery number one revealed in the Bible, assuredly the truth about angels and evil spirits is second in order. Did God create a devil? If there are holy angels, what is their purpose and function? Do evil spirits affect and influence humans and even governments today? Do evil spirits affect even your own life? This question seems enveloped in total mystery.

Certainly third in order is the mystery of your own life—of humanity as a whole. What and why is humanity? Is man an immortal soul? Do the dead know what the living are doing? Is there meaning and purpose to human life? Did we evolve through unintelligent material forces without meaning or purpose? Why are humans beset with seemingly unsolvable problems?

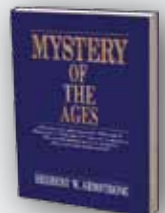
Fourth in line of the not-understood mysteries is the civilization that has developed in man's world. How did man's world develop? Why do we find a world of awesome advancement and progress, yet paradoxically with appalling and mounting evils? Why cannot the minds that develop spacecraft, computers and marvels of science, technology and industry solve the problems that demonstrate human helplessness?

Next in the development of human society on Earth is the mystery of the Jew and the ancient nation of Israel. Why are they God's "chosen people"? Are they God's favorites? Does God discriminate against other nations? What is Israel's purpose in the divine order of things?

Come now to the mystery of the Church. Why should there be the institution of the Church in the world? Is there some purpose for it, not understood even by the religion of traditional Christianity?

Finally, why the mystery of the Kingdom of God? Jesus's gospel message was "the Kingdom of God." Is the Kingdom of God something within each person? Is it the institution of the Church? Why this mystery of the very gospel of Jesus Christ?

These are the seven great mysteries that concern the lives of every human being on Earth. The plain truth of all these mysteries is revealed in Herbert W. Armstrong's master work, *Mystery of the Ages*. Read by over 1 million, a free copy is reserved for you—without obligation or follow-up.



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